

## Mrs Gandhi to be cleared by new Indian legislation

Members of the Indian Parliament are to vote today on changes in the Representation of the People Act which would exonerate Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, from charges of electoral malpractices of which she was found guilty by the Allahabad High Court. The legislation would be retroactive.

## MPs voting today on retroactive Bill

Delhi, Aug 3.—The Indian Parliament is to vote today on a bill designed to ensure that Mrs Gandhi, the Prime Minister, should not be held responsible for election malpractices. The legislation would seek to amend the Representation of the People Act which was passed in 1950. Mrs Gandhi was found guilty by the Allahabad High Court in June 1974 of electoral malpractices in the 1971 election. The Supreme Court has adjourned its hearing of an appeal against that judgment. The amendment has been introduced by the Government. It is expected that the bill will be passed by a large majority of the ruling Congress Party in both Houses of Parliament. The bill would give the Government the power to declare any election void if it was found to be fraudulent. It would also give the Government the power to declare any election void if it was found to be fraudulent. It would also give the Government the power to declare any election void if it was found to be fraudulent.



Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who celebrates her seventy-fifth birthday today, in the drawing room of Clarence House. (Reluctant Queen, page 5; leading article, page 13; another photograph, page 14).

## Secrecy over Court Line may be intended to protect Mr Wilson

By Maurice Corina, Industrial Editor  
There is increasing speculation that the Government's refusal to release certain Cabinet and diplomatic papers for the official inquiries into the Court Line travel group financial collapse has protected the Prime Minister from awkward questions about his involvement in the affair. Mr Wilson is believed to have been directly consulted on how the Government would handle the difficulties during the seven days before Mr Wedgwood Benn, then Secretary of State for Industry, made his prepared statement to the Commons. It can be established that on June 21 last year Mr Peter Carey, Second Permanent Secretary at the Department of Industry, told Court Line directors and bankers that the company's approach to the Government for help in its financial difficulties, which was made two days before, had been raised with the Prime Minister. On the same day the Government issued a short statement disclosing that Court Line had approached it about financial difficulties. It omitted the vital information of interest to holidaymakers and other creditors that the National Westminster Bank the same day had, with Whitehall approval, instructed

## Four Britons among 188 killed as jet crashes

Casablanca, Aug 3.—A Moroccan jet carrying 192 passengers and crew crashed today killing 188 people on board, including four Britons. A Royal Air Maroc spokesman in Paris identified the Britons as a Mr and Mrs Duggan, a Mr Mason and a Mrs Sterling. The Jordanian-owned Boeing 707, on charter to Royal Air Maroc, crashed in the Atlas Mountains near Imizen, north-east of Agadir, after losing contact with the Agadir airport control tower early today. Two villagers at their morning prayers saw the crash and ran six miles to raise the alarm. The aircraft, according to some reports was carrying 177 Moroccan, the four Britons and a Jordanian crew of seven, burst into flames as it hit the peak of a hill. Mr Abadi Laouine, a school principal, who went to the scene with ground rescue parties after helicopters had sighted the wreckage, said: "Everything was completely torn apart. There wasn't a recognisable part of the plane among the thousands of birds. The bodies were torn to pieces by the crash." The aircraft, which was on a flight from Paris, crashed just two minutes before it was due to land at Agadir, about 40 miles to the south. The Boeing 707 was in the normal north-south axis for aircraft approaching Agadir. Most of them came in from Casablanca to the north, but this one came from the north-east over the Atlas Mountains. It was the fourth worst single aircraft disaster. The worst was the crash of a Turkish Airlines DC10 outside Paris in March last year in which all 346 people on board died.—Reuter, AP, UPI.

## W European Socialist leaders pledge support to Dr Soares

From Richard Davy, Stockholm, Aug 3  
A committee for the support of democratic socialism in Portugal was announced here yesterday by Mr Olof Palme, the Swedish Prime Minister, after a meeting of 17 West European Socialist Democratic leaders, including Dr Mario Soares of Portugal. Dr Soares told the meeting that he was still optimistic about the chances of democratic development in Portugal. He had many supporters in the Army which was a mirror of the whole Portuguese people. He said Portugal was suffering from an economic crisis and a social crisis caused by lack of democracy. He appealed for aid without political strings from the European Community. The meeting was planned to a large extent as a demonstration of support for Dr Soares, who developed close links with West European socialists, particularly those of Sweden and West Germany, while in exile. His party was founded in Bonn. At a press conference after the meeting Mr Wilson said that he himself was not optimistic about developments in Portugal, saying that there must be freedom for the political parties, the press and the trade unions. He said parties had a right to work across frontiers in all parts of the world. Asked if this might not contravene the principle of no intervention contained in the documents signed at Helsinki, he said that the documents also laid down principles relating to human rights. Dr Soares added that he found it normal that socialists should express their solidarity and support for democracy. Mr Palme said that a smaller committee was being formed to decide the type of activities to be undertaken. Mr Wilson said he had told Mr Brezhnev in Helsinki that Portugal was a test of détente. He is believed to feel that the Russians put their interest in détente above their interest in promoting communism in Portugal. Our Political Staff writes: Anything that the Soviet Union could do to calm the situation in Portugal would be very much in the spirit of the "Helsinki détente", but failure to do so would perhaps be taken as the first test of whether it really meant anything, Mr Wilson said yesterday. Speaking on the BBC radio programme *The World at One*, the Prime Minister said that he thought there was a genuine spirit of détente as a result of the Helsinki summit, which had been a unique gathering. But they would be judged not by what they signed, but by how far they carried out the actual promises of what they signed. "We were able to press questions like our anxieties over Portugal, not only with the President of Portugal, with whom I had a very tough meeting, but also with the Soviet Union and others," he said. "We have made clear in the Soviet Union that anything they could do to quieten things down in Portugal would be very much in the spirit of détente, and failure to do that would be taken perhaps as the first test of whether détente and Helsinki really meant anything." Moderate tries to regain control of regiment, page 4

## Weekend sun-seekers jam the roads

Yorkshire, heavy traffic blocked roads round Scarborough leading to the Dales. At Muford quay, Dorset, several people collapsed from the heat and some went to hospital. Heathrow airport was clogged as thousands of travellers left for holidays abroad. A water main burst in the main access tunnel, it took an hour to repair and traffic was reduced to a single lane. All three terminals were packed with people but most of them kept on the move. Thousands of holidaymakers were delayed at Heathrow on Saturday because of a dispute involving British Airways engineering and maintenance men. They stopped work for a time over the 50 pay rise limit. British Airways said yesterday that it was not expecting further delays or disruptions because of industrial trouble within the next few days.

## Probation officers put radical plan to cut prison numbers

By a Staff Reporter  
A plan to reduce Britain's prison population, which last month reached a record 40,050, has been put by the National Association of Probation Officers in a letter to Mr Robert Kilroy-Gibb, Labour MP for Ormskirk, a campaigner for penal reform. The association is demanding that urgent measures be taken by Mr Jenkins, the Home Secretary, to relieve the extremely overcrowding. Mr Jenkins has said it would "approach the intolerable" if the prison population were to reach 42,000. On the basis of the 4,000 increase over the past 12 months, the association predicts that that figure will probably be exceeded by the end of the year unless positive action is taken. It criticises Mr Jenkins for acting "circumspectly rather than decisively". The most radical suggestion is for legislation to take certain offences out of the criminal category, such as begging, sleeping rough, indecent exposure, loitering, and being found on enclosed premises. The association urges the speedy implementation of policies to which the Government is already committed; the provision of a detoxification programme for drunken offenders, as promised in the 1972 Criminal Justice Act, and the introduction of new bail legislation, which the association says was promised last May. It also advocates ending the practice of committing juveniles to adult prisons, releasing more prisoners on parole, and greater use by judges and magistrates of probation, community service, suspended sentence supervision orders and hostels. Mr David Mathison, chairman of the association, states in the letter that most of these proposals would give the probation and aftercare service more work, but that would be cheaper than maintaining the present prison population. The Home Secretary would be justified in Secretaries would be justified in

## Policeman killed in Madrid shooting

From Harry Debelius, Madrid, Aug 3  
One policeman was shot dead and another wounded in stepped up their hunt for political extremists. The latest shooting came late on Saturday night in a working class district of Madrid when a uniformed member of the para-military Civil Guard was killed. Another Civil Guard was wounded. Three young men in a white Simca car had opened fire on them with no apparent provocation. The wounded policeman managed to reach a hospital where he reported the killing. Initial suspicion is directed at the Revolutionary Anti-Fascist Front (FRAP), a Maoist organisation which killed another uniformed policeman here last month. Exchanges of gunfire between police and political activists are becoming a frequent occurrence in Madrid. Last Wednesday, police killed an ETA guerrilla, wounded another, and captured several others in an operation involving four separate gunfights in the capital in one day. Army officers in the Madrid area on suspicion of illegal political activities. A brief communique from the headquarters of Spain's First Military Region announced the arrests. It said little except that those now held in the case include a major and seven captains from the army, and one captain from the air force. Informal sources said that the nine officers are suspected of belonging to the Democratic Union of the Army. Bilbao, Aug 3.—Madrid police have captured one of the top "military" commanders of the ETA, police said. They identified him as Señor Felix Eguia Inchaurreaga, arrested on Wednesday night during a spectacular gun-battle in Madrid between at least three suspected ETA men and police.

## Disaster fund ends after 65 years

After 65 years of administering a mine disaster fund, Mr Adams, a former member of the fund, was wound up, and £16,000 left to the National Union of Mineworkers. The disaster occurred in 1910, when explosions occurred in the Hulton colliery at Westhoughton, near Bolton. A total of 344 men and boys were killed, leaving 593 dependants. A fund was set up and £150,443 raised. Over the years, more than double that amount was paid out. Recently the last dependant died, leaving £16,000 in the fund. The disaster fund committee met a week ago and decided that the remaining money should go to the North-west area of the NUM, towards the upkeep of its convalescent home at Blackpool. Mr Hough, now in his eighties, said last night: "We invested the capital, maybe in some cases luckily, but it paid off. Many other disaster funds have copied what we did."

## Wide-bodied jets fly the flag daily to 8 major U.S. cities.

747's non-stop to New York, Miami, Boston, Washington, Chicago and direct to Philadelphia and Detroit. DC10's non-stop to L.A. With our own special brand of care and attention on all of them. Full details from your Travel Agent or British Airways shop.



## Fresh outbreak of violence in Ireland

Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, says his security advisers are studying the new Army CoC, which is a background of growing tension on troops, police and civilians. United Ulster Unionist coalition is a meeting to examine the general situation. There is little doubt, our respondent says, that they will again be their criticism of government for its security, including the release of republican detainees. Page 2

## Ford trade talks

Trade issues were expected to dominate Ford's discussions in Yugoslavia at the close of the President's tour of Eastern Europe. Earlier, he signed an undertaking granting "most favoured nation" terms for American trade with Romania. He emphasized that America supports small countries in their quest to choose policies free of superpower domination. Page 4

## BR speed record

A train speed record of 151 mph was set by British Rail's advanced passenger train during a trial run between Swindon and Reading yesterday. A much higher speed would have been achieved had the weather not been so hot, one of the drivers who took the train out said. Page 3

## On other pages

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## ar industry study

Government strategy for the motor industry may be affected by recommendations contained in a confidential report by the Central Policy Review Unit, which is to be presented to the Prime Minister in October. It will suggest how the motor industry might benefit by returning to the best practices of the 1950s in research, marketing and design. Page 2

## Battle over schools

A last-ditch campaign by Roman Catholics to save direct grant grammar schools is to seek the support of Roman Catholic bishops. An action committee in the North-west has approved plans aimed at defeating the Government's comprehensive school regulations. Page 3

## Amin OAU pledge

President Amin of Uganda promised at the summit meeting of the Organization of African Unity in Kampala that he would not take action on behalf of the organization as its chairman without consulting other African heads of state first. Page 5

## Coup in Comores

President Ahmed Abdallah, who declared the Comores Islands independent from France almost a month ago, has been deposed. A spokesman for the rebels has announced that representatives of all political groups in the archipelago will be summoned to participate in the creation of a new government. Page 4

## Motor racing

Carlos Reutemann won the German Grand Prix from Jacques Laffite and Niki Lauda. Only nine laps to go.

## Classical Congress

A Cambridge University professor has challenged the conventional view of Oris and his poetry.

## Ieriden men angry

Police workers have reacted angrily to criticism in the competitive's magazine. The magazine, which is published by the Ieriden men, has been accused of being biased against the police. Page 19



## HOME NEWS

# 'Think tank' report may affect car industry strategy

By Peter Hennessy

The Central Policy Review Staff, the Government's "think tank", will present a confidential report on the long-term prospects of the British motor industry to the Cabinet in October.

Its recommendations might affect the Government's strategy for the industry implemented through its majority shareholding in British Leyland and future planning agreements with Ford, Chrysler and Vauxhall.

The report will suggest how British manufacturers might benefit by adopting the best practices of their international rivals in marketing, research and development. It will also analyse the range of models required to keep a motor manufacturer competitive in world markets.

The Government is known to be highly concerned about the competitiveness of British motor manufacturers whose continued survival it regards as vital to the nation's industrial standing.

In the House of Commons last week, Mr. Shore, Secretary of State for Trade, urged motorists to buy British cars whenever possible.

At the time of the Government's takeover of British Leyland in April, the Prime Minister said that a million jobs were at stake and the future had to remain in the world-league with a British-owned automobile industry.

The review staff began its study in earnest after the publication of the Ryder report on British Leyland in April. Its report, which is expected to be more than 20,000 words, will attempt to forecast the shape of the motor industry in the Western world in the mid-1980s and Britain's potential share of it.

## Emergency debate sought on Scottish devolution leak

From Ronald Faux

Edinburgh

Mr. Tam Dalyell, chairman of the Scottish group of Labour MPs and vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Labour Party, is to demand an emergency debate over disclosures that Scotland is to be allowed a maximum degree of devolution, with absolute control over the £4,000m annual budget and some tax-raising powers residing in the Scottish Assembly.

There has clearly been a government leak on the Assembly question, and Mr. Dalyell understands that the Government is going to support the "maximum devolution" line.

Mr. Dalyell favours devolution for Scotland through greater powers being given to the regional council. He said the prescription now favoured by the Government would spell

the breakup of the United Kingdom.

A Scottish Cabinet system and Prime Minister would conflict with Westminster. He plans to raise the matter in the Commons under emergency procedure.

The devolution proposals are due to be presented in a White Paper in October. The leaked proposals give the Scottish Assembly senate-style committees able to draw up legislation.

But the Secretary of State for Scotland would remain in the Cabinet with the Scottish Development Agency under his control, initially at least.

"If this is the way the Government are seriously thinking, the consequences will be bad," Mr. Dalyell said. "The Scottish Assembly with this degree of control could blame the inevitable failures which will come on its lack of power."

"The appetite for more power will grow until Scotland becomes a separate nation."

## Mr Wilson's involvement in travel affair

Continued from page 1

he had not been given sufficient information.

On June 26, Mr. Benn delivered his prepared statement to the Commons. Another answer to the Commons, supplemented by the event required, was to have indicated that "people's prospects of getting their holidays have been greatly improved by the Government's action (that of being ready to nationalize the shipyard industry).

The Commons was not told that three days before there had been the provisional agreement for a £10m takeover, which required Cabinet approval. The cost and terms were not to be disclosed to MPs until July 1 when a government statement said Court Line had agreed to the arrangements which, it was confident, safeguarded its holiday operations.

All Mr. Benn's statements, the Government will argue on Wednesday, were "on behalf of and with the authority of the Government". That is why it disagrees with the criticisms levelled by the Opposition and Mr. Benn's reassuring words at the time of the shipbuilding decision.

Mr. Heseltine, Opposition spokesman on industrial affairs, accused the Government yesterday of "an orgy of deception". Independent umpires were deceived, he said, for now it emerged that they were denied what the Commons was told they received, full access to the books.

The Department of Trade said yesterday that Mr. Shore's statement last week was "accurate" because the Parliamentary Commissioners Act did not empower him to examine proceedings of the Cabinet or documents of Cabinet committees.

The Cabinet Office said that

## Firms gave Tories £895,108 in 1974

By Our Political Staff

Cash gifts by 412 companies to the Conservative Party and other political parties in 1974, totalled £1,598,836, according to a survey carried out by the Labour Research Department, an independent trade union bureau.

It is published in this month's issue of the department's magazine, *Labour Research*, which says that because of the Labour Government's 1967 amendment to the Companies Act, it had been able to extract information on political donations from companies' annual reports.

The Conservative Party received £895,108; British United Industrialists £557,025; Aims of Industry £129,938; and the Liberal Party and other organizations £16,765.

The largest gifts to the Conservatives came from City institutions: 61 banks, finance houses, insurance companies and investment trusts gave a total of £451,315. The largest single contributor to the party was Newchill, a building firm, which gave £43,540. It was followed by the Rank Organisation with £40,000, and Guest, Keen and Nettlefolds with £35,730. The total figure of £1,598,836 compares with £810,136, the party and the two organizations received in 1973.

The biggest individual gift was £62,500 from Commercial Union Assurance to British United Industrialists, an organization "wrapped in mystery", according to the magazine.

The organization dissolved itself as a limited company in 1968, following the new requirement to disclose political donations, and its accounts are thus not publicly available, the bureau says.

The Conservative Party said yesterday that 1974, a year in which two general elections were held, was bound to have been an exceptional year for donations.

"But the situation is now that we simply have not got any money. Our funds are desperately low, we are trying to make considerable savings in all sorts of ways, and we have an appeal running at the moment," the party said.



Spectators watching yachts racing at Cowes, Isle of Wight, yesterday. In the background are, left, the royal yacht Britannia and, right, the Italian Navy's training vessel, Amerigo Vespucci. Report, page 9.

## Trotskyites sent letter on wrecking, MPs say

By Our Political Staff

MPs yesterday said they were convinced that an anonymous letter instructing constituency Labour parties on how to wreck the Government's anti-inflation policy had been written by Trotskyites within the Young Socialist movement.

The letter contains a resolution which recipients are instructed to try to get passed at constituency meetings. The letter says that the imposition of the 5p pay curb is one more instance of the Government's abandonment of its manifesto commitments and its rejection of the will of the party conference.

The Tribune group of left-wing Labour MPs has denied writing the letter. It is believed that the Trotskyite elements are sending it to the party. They will be expected to fight to get the resolution through constituency meetings.

The letters are not being sent to constituency secretaries or other officials but a copy has been sent to the party. A Labour Party official yesterday declined to speculate on the letter's authenticity, but said the style and language were familiar. There was no reason to believe that it was a forgery, he added.

## Talks today in effort to end union's dispute

By Our Labour Staff

Representatives of more than 90 full-time officials of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs will meet the union's national executive committee today in an effort to settle a dispute over the dismissal of Miss Judy Carter, a trainee officer.

"The officers went on strike after Miss Carter had had her contract terminated on the ground of 'unsuitability'. They maintained that she had not been given a proper opportunity to answer the complaints made against her."

The executive committee met on Friday night and endorsed the action of Mr. Clive Jenkins, the union's general secretary. It offered either to publish the full facts of the case or to refer the dispute to the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service. Both suggestions were rejected by the officials, who said the dispute was an internal matter and should be settled as such.

"Observer" redundancies: The board of *The Observer* will decide today whether to issue compulsory redundancy notices to staff members in view of the fact it says is a disappointing response from unions to requests to reduce manpower by 30 per cent to save costs. All employees have been told that unless voluntary cuts are made, the newspaper's cash flow will end in about five weeks.

The three main printing unions, the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel, the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, have put forward counter-proposals.

## Mining subsidence threat to electricity supplies

From Ronald Kershaw

Barnsley

A full inquiry into the effects and dangers of mining subsidence on electricity supplies is being sought by Mr. Roy Mason, MP for Barnsley, and Secretary of State for Defence.

He heard representations on Saturday from Barnsley residents who complained that electric cookers, refrigerators, tape recorders, and television sets were damaged by a faulty supply cable because of mining subsidence.

Mr. Mason said last night: "A matter of concern is that if hospitals in the area might be affected by sudden changes in the electricity supply, the lives of patients may well be at risk."

The trouble started in April

## Upsurge of violence in Ulster

From Stewart Tindler

Belfast

Mr. Rees, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, meets security advisers today, including the new Army Col. Lieutenant-General Sir David House, against a background of increased attacks on troops, police and civilians and fresh "loyalist" criticism of his policy of releasing republican detainees.

Members of the United Ulster Unionist coalition will meet today and tomorrow to examine the general situation and there is little doubt that they will again voice their criticism of government policy on security. Some members of the coalition are also due to see Mr. Rees tomorrow.

A meeting between the coalition and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, due to be held today, has been cancelled. The reason given was to enable the SDLP to have time to draw up discussion points.

A former member of the Ulster Defence Regiment died early yesterday after being ambushed while walking home with his wife from a public house. At Mr. George McCall, aged 22, lay dying in a country road near his home at Moy, Co. Tyrone. Mr. Sandra McCall standing over him. She was

pushed away by the man, who again shot Mr. McCall.

The gunmen were armed with Armalite and 30.1 rifles and had white handkerchiefs over their faces. They escaped over fields to a river.

Mr. McCall, a Protestant, left the UDR two years ago. He worked as a foreman and the couple had one daughter aged three.

The incident took the death toll in the past eight days to nine. On Saturday, Mr. Joseph Toland, aged 78, was killed when a mini-bus carrying Roman Catholic pensioners was ambushed while returning from a bingo session at Banbridge, Co. Down.

Rifles and a sub-machinegun were fired at the vehicle as it slowed to take a corner on the way to Banbridge, Co. Down. The driver and another passenger were severely injured.

The vehicle resembles one used by RUC officers to travel each week to Gifford, Co. Down. It had passed the point of ambush by the time the pensioners' bus came along. The RUC said they thought the attack was carried out by a republican group who shot at the wrong bus.

They said the weapons used were usually used by IRA extremists, but the Provisional

IRA denied responsibility for the attack and blamed Protestant extremists.

Yesterday, two ambushes on security forces were attempted. An RUC patrol at Strabane, Co. Tyrone, went to investigate reports of a woman screaming. The woman was a deputy and when the patrol arrived 14 shots were fired at them through night vision goggles.

A vehicle checkpoint operated by men from the 15th, 19th and 20th Royal Hussars was attacked at Stewartstown, Co. Tyrone. Between 30 and 40 shots were fired at the soldiers and an explosive device was found later.

Littlejohn, return: The self-styled British spy, Kenneth Littlejohn, aged 31, was under close guard in Dublin yesterday after being taken from Britain in a secret operation by Special Branch detectives (the Press Association reports).

The convicted bank robber, who was on the run for more than one year after escaping from Mountjoy Jail in Dublin, was in a cell in Dublin's Bridewell police station just 24 hours after losing his appeal in London against extradition.

He was brought from Winson Green Prison, Birmingham, on a regular Aer Lingus flight. Mr. Littlejohn, who was serving a 10-year sentence, faces jail-breaking charges.

## Crime rate blamed on media publicity

Most people think there would be less crime if it featured less on television and in films, newspapers and books, according to a Home Office survey yesterday. Seventy per cent of almost 3,000 people questioned by researchers blamed the amount of crime on the media.

The survey, published in the *British Journal of Criminology*, showed that more than 70 per cent of those questioned thought the main reason for crime were get-rich-quick attitudes, the lure of something for nothing, lack of parental control and too many crooks getting away with it.

Forty-four per cent thought one factor was the decline in religion. More than 90 per cent thought crime would be cut if first offenders and petty offenders were kept in separate jails from hardened criminals and if the public guarded its property more carefully.

The opinions of men and women were similar, but there were differences between young and old. Those over 50 tended to blame crime on a lack of parental control and the decline in religion.

Questioned about the seriousness of crime, nearly all put murder, robbery with violence,

sex offences against children, cruelty to children, indecently assaulting a woman, and causing death by dangerous driving at the top of the list.

Less than a third thought fighting, taking a motor vehicle without consent, being drunk and disorderly, stealing by finding, travelling without paying the fare, or vagrancy were serious.

Comparing the results with a similar survey in the United States, the researchers say a majority everywhere blamed crime on lack of parental discipline, although the feeling was stronger in the United States than in Britain.

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## Prison population 'near danger level'

Continued from page 1

diverting money from the prison budget to probation and after-care.

He points out that Britain has proportionately the highest prison population of any country in Europe, except West Germany. Other countries manage to preserve law and order without such high numbers in custody, so why shouldn't we? he asks.

The association calls for a "dynamic and imaginative policy of penal reform" in regard to victim as well as offender, and backed up by positive proposals for crime prevention. It appeals to Mr. Kilroy-Silk to focus attention on the issue, particularly during the

rest of the summer, when the prison population will be rising but Parliament will be in recess.

Mr. Mathieson said yesterday that he thought the proposal most likely to cause controversy was the suggestion that the offence of indecent exposure should be taken out of the criminal category. The association envisaged that people stopped by the police for such offences should be taken to a police station where they could be treated, rather than punished.

Parole moves: Moves to increase the chances of parole being granted are predicted in *Frontline*, published by the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of

Offenders (our Home Office Correspondent writes).

Mr. Jenkins has promised to study the association's proposals that for all prisoners serving sentences up to and including three years, release under supervision on licence should be automatic, after serving, say, three months in prison.

Reef protest continues: A plan to starve four protesting prisoners into surrender from the maximum security jail, Isle of Wight, failed yesterday.

Three prisoners in neighbouring cells climbed on their own roof and flung a sack of food and drink across the barbed wire barricade erected to stop such smuggling.

## Shotguns used to kill seals

From Our Correspondent

King's Lynn

Thirty common seal pups have been killed with shotguns on Scroby Sands, off Great Yarmouth, naturalists reported yesterday.

Great Yarmouth sub-aqua club is running patrols for the RSPCA and naturalist organizations in an attempt to catch the gunmen.

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## Vandalism discounts after blas hurts six

From Our Correspondent

Gloucester

Five youths seen from an electric van could not have been re for a double explosion. Lane early yesterday six people were hurt, police said last night because of the explosion.

Mr. John Carter, 22, of Bristol, and Mr. Fin aged 35, of Milford, were both said to be in Gloucester General Hospital, with burns to the face and hands, yesterday. Mr. Carter, 22, and Mr. Fin, 35, were both said to be in Gloucester General Hospital, with burns to the face and hands, yesterday. Mr. Carter, 22, and Mr. Fin, 35, were both said to be in Gloucester General Hospital, with burns to the face and hands, yesterday.

## Special squad hunt for £1m gem thief

By a Staff Reporter

The police have a special squad to investigate the theft of a £1m gem from a safe deposit on Saturday night and marked an estimated £1m on cut gems and jewelry.

The squad, under Philip Woods, is working with Scotland Yard. The thieves broke open a safe in a building, broke open strong boxes, and escaped with the loot.

A few owners of the stolen gems will be difficult to trace. Some of the stolen gems will be difficult to trace. Some of the stolen gems will be difficult to trace. Some of the stolen gems will be difficult to trace.

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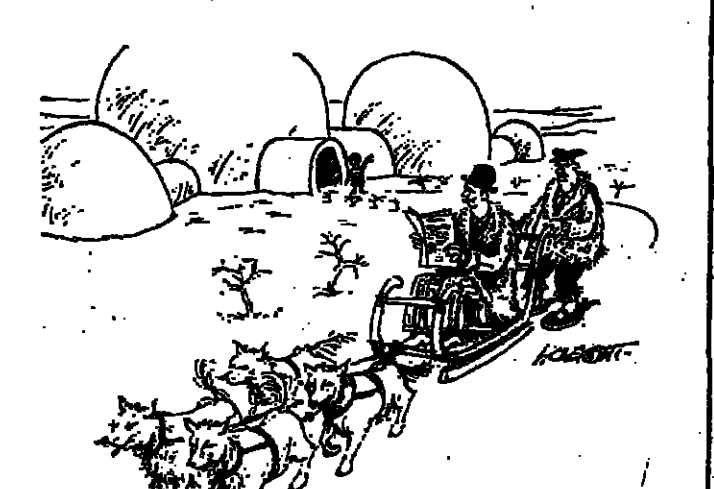
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## Free Concorde

British Airways is free to fly in a Concorde in August 24, bank holiday. The 35 passengers chosen from postal in a national ballot.

## Smoking protest

Mr. John Hicks, age his wife, of Harrogate, East Grinstead, Sussex, began a hunger strike to protest against the ICI laboratory at Alderley, Cheshire, at smoking experiment heagles.



## Our presence will make your heart grow fonder.

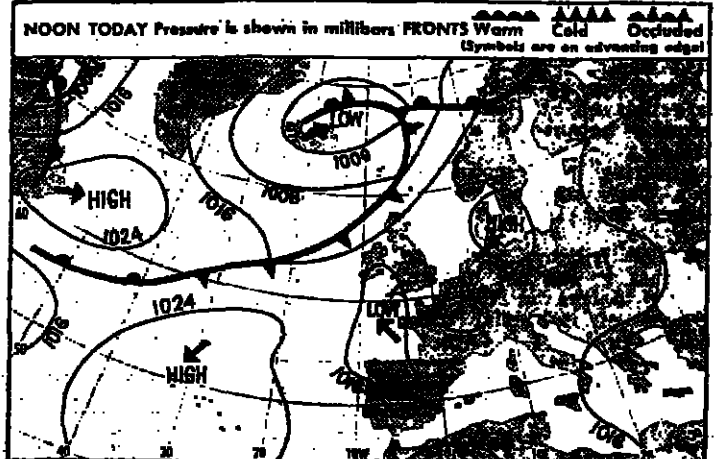
If you are resident overseas, the best way of keeping in touch with events back home is by reading The Times.

However, due to rising costs and to avoid any unnecessary wastage of newsprint, The Times has reduced the number of copies offered for casual sale both at home and abroad.

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## Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. FRONTS Warm, Cold, Occluded. Symbols are an extension of the map.

Today

Sun rises: 5.28 am. Moon sets: 8.45 pm. Moon sets: 8.45 pm. Moon sets: 8.45 pm.

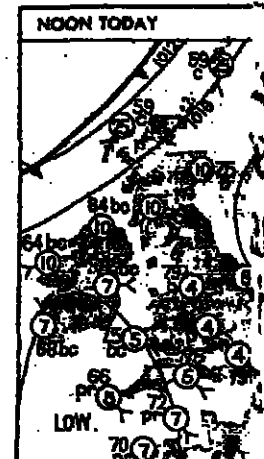
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Mr. Morris suggests that a simple statutory reform would be to redefine treasure as "all personal property of antiquarian interest found buried, hidden or concealed". Concealment of it would be a statutory offence, triable by a coroner sitting with a jury, and there would be a right of appeal to a Crown Court.

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# HOME NEWS

## New train sets 151 mph speed record

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail's advanced passenger train established a British train speed record yesterday when it travelled at 151 mph for a five-mile stretch during trials between Swindon and Reading. It broke its own record of 149 mph established last week.

The train, which is due to come into operation on the London to Glasgow line in 1978, has a maximum design speed of 155 mph, and a regular travelling speed of 125 mph. It is likely to reduce the shortest journey time between London and Glasgow from five hours to four.

Yesterday's run, which was part of a comprehensive test programme started in September 1973, was the second of a series of trials designed to test the train's behaviour at its highest speeds.

The four-coach train, powered by gas turbine engines and weighing 150 tons, had on board engineers and scientists of British Rail's Research and Development Division gathering information for the design teams working on the three passenger carrying prototypes being built for service.

The train broke its previous speed record during the second run of the morning at 6.30 before the temperature rose, making repeat runs more difficult. Mr Richard Marsh, chairman of British Rail, sent his congratulations to the designers and engineers who were on a "fine British achievement".

Mr Michael Newman, deputy technical director of the laboratories at Swindon, said that the train's performance was "a fine British achievement".

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Mr Herbert Miles, one of the four drivers who took the train out, said that it was "a great pleasure to handle; it was smooth and quiet and I felt very relaxed". He had had some training on high speed trains and a week's intensive course in Derby before starting the set of trials.

The last test in the series is to take place next Sunday morning. Power output cut: Mr Miles, who drove the train at almost 150 mph yesterday, said: "We would have achieved much higher speed if the weather had not been so hot" (the Press Association reports).

He explained that the gas turbine engines reduced power output as the outside air temperature rose. The driver on the record run was Mr Robert Kerr of Acton, London.

Concorde flies: A backward glance shows the aircraft strewn with dashed hopes and lost deposits. Legend says that some newspapers have kept the headline "Plaid Bid Fails" permanently in type.

It was 41 years before the party had an MP, and some nationalists have reservations about fifty-fifth birthday celebrations. They say that Plaid Cymru, the political party rather than the pressure group, is not 50 but nine.

During those nine years Plaid Cymru has had a significant role in the growth of the regional dimension in British politics, and has achieved the limit of a new nationalist movement question now, and the real challenge for Plaid Cymru, whether the climate is changing.

Regional report

Trevor Fishlock

Pwllheli

ing enough for it to win a parliamentary seat in Labour's south Wales dominion.

Welsh nationalism is essentially about survival. A thin stream of national consciousness ran through the centuries after thirteen century conquest and formal union with England in the sixteenth century. The main constituent of the stream was the Welsh language, banned from courts and administration by Henry VIII but transmitted down the years by the Bible, translated into Welsh on Elizabeth I's orders, so that Wales should be kept Protestant.

Intellectuals started a vogue for Welsh studies in the late eighteenth century, and a Victorian times a new nationalist took root as some Welshmen accepted that Wales was an entity with traditions worth keeping. In the 1880s there was a home rule movement, starting Lloyd George, but it collapsed and many people found their nationalist sentiments fulfilled in watching Lloyd George's rise to power in London.

In the 1920s Wales embraced Labour in order to fight economic and social battles. While that work remained to be done Plaid Cymru had to wait in the wings.

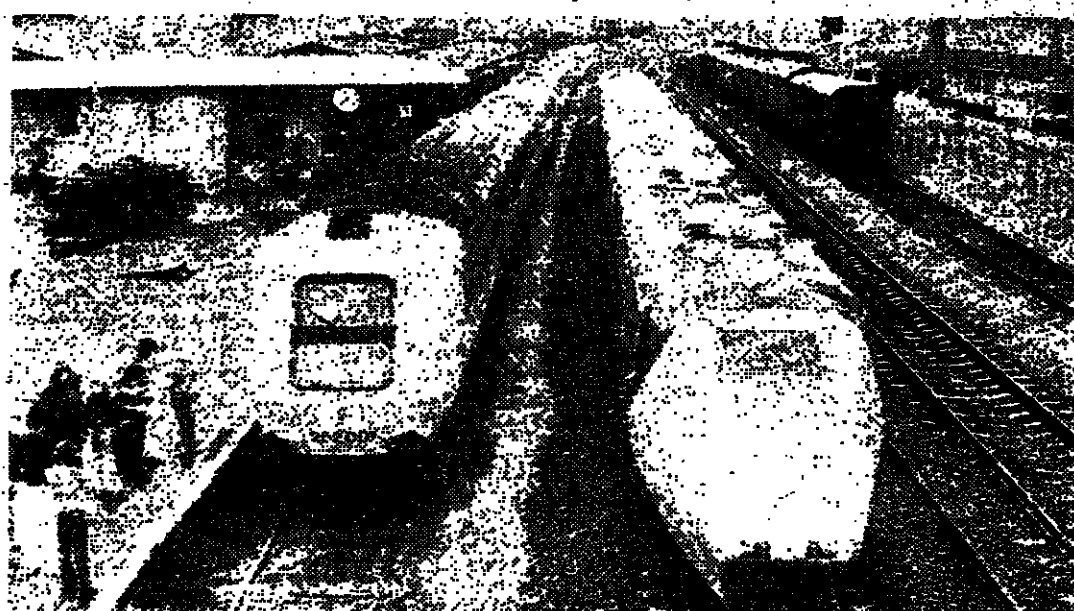
So it was not until the 1960s that a new growth of Welsh consciousness began, with an awareness of identity of the crushing power of uniformity, of the decline of Welsh. There was also discontent with the remoteness of London government and the failure of regional economic policies.

People who joined Plaid Cymru in the 1960s saw that dreams of self-government and survival of Welsh were not enough. They shaped a wide range of economic and social policies, set up a party apparatus, and completed Plaid Cymru's transformation from pressure group of enthusiasts to a political party.

The intellectual element was balanced by working class people as Plaid Cymru's social



Contrasts in rail travel: A full-scale replica of George Stephenson's 1825-built Locomotion No. 1 on a final demonstration at Beamish Hall, Co Durham, before being overhauled in readiness for a Cavalcade of Steam. Below: British Rail's record breakers, the high-speed train (left), which holds the world speed record for a diesel at 143 mph, and the advanced passenger train, which yesterday broke its own 149 mph record by two miles an hour.



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## 10-minute delays to deter city motorists

Motorists entering Nottingham city centre from today will face traffic lights with a 10-minute red phase. The pause, with a brief green interlude, is a key element in the city's traffic management scheme designed to discourage motorists from driving into the city centre.

It will be watched carefully by other local authorities which are considering introducing similar ways of controlling traffic.

The delays will start when motorists reach some main junctions outside the city. When they get nearer the city and into what is called the collar zone, there will be more delays of up to 10 minutes, as more traffic lights every quarter of a mile or half mile, spend more time on red than on green.

But while cars queue, buses will be kept moving. The heart of the scheme is to keep cars out of the centre and a lot of those who do drive in now, have no real need of a car in the city during the day.

To encourage more people to travel by bus from home to work, the council has opened four free "park and ride" sites from which motorists will be able to catch a coach every seven and a half minutes to complete the journey to their workplaces.

The official said that bus journeys to the centre would be more frequent, faster and more reliable than now. Buses will have priority over other traffic, with the introduction of bus lanes and bus-only lanes.

Because fewer cars will travel into the city during the operation of the "zone and collar" system, from 7.30 to 9.30 each day, there will be no need for extra measures in the evening peak-hour.

Nottingham already has two free city centre bus services which have helped to reduce the number of cars in the city centre. Its latest scheme will cost about £500,000.

Criticising the scheme yesterday, an official of the RAC in Nottingham said: "It seems to be a bid to combat road traffic problems in a city where there aren't any. It is simply an attempt to force the motorist off the road and make the local bus service more viable."

Motorists who do drive in and the police fear that the scheme may drive frustrated car drivers into breaking the law.

The RAC said: "Drivers waiting in a queue of traffic are going to get very annoyed when they see the lights on red and the road ahead clear. This could easily lead to people breaking the law."

Drivers who jump traffic lights when they are still showing red will face a maximum fine of £100 and licence endorsement.

CND remembers Hiroshima

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament yesterday opened a week of commemoration for the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9, 1945.

Mr Russell Kerr, MP, and Mr Ian Mikardo, MP, led representatives of organizations including the Peace Pipers' Union and the National Union of Students at a ceremony in which a wreath was laid at the Cenotaph in memory of the Japanese dead.

Students' union ready to support some squatters

By a Staff Reporter

The National Union of Students said yesterday that thousands of students would probably become squatters in the autumn, because there was insufficient accommodation available they could afford.

"We will support them so long as they are genuinely unemployed," Mr Charles Clarke, the NUS president, said. "Squatters who move into property which a local authority is about to use are a different matter and we will not support them, for they simply deprive the next family on the waiting list."

Britain's cities had more people than they could house, he said. Few colleges could guarantee accommodation to students and university-owned accommodation was often too expensive.

The NUS is opposed to what it describes as the "utter hypocrisy" of the campaign to tighten laws against squatting. It says properties are deliberately kept empty by wealthy private landlords.

Under the scheme, pioneered in California, parents are given the average cost of providing education for each child in the form of a voucher.

Mr Maynard said that variations could be used to give more help to poorer parents. It would transform the method of financing education by re-channeling central government finance to parents instead of local authorities.

9lb goldfish caught

Sydney, Aug. 3.—Tony McCarroll, a schoolboy, is to apply to the Guinness Book of Records for a world-beating catch—a positively identified 9lb goldfish hauled from a dam.

## Catholic bishops will be asked for help to preserve schools

From Tim Devlin, Education Correspondent, Liverpool

Roman Catholic bishops are to be asked to support a last-ditch campaign to save direct grant grammar schools. They will be asked to back a three-month-old Catholic parents' movement which has rapidly gained ground in the North-west and is ready to spread to other parts of the country.

The Catholic Direct Grant Action Committee, which represents hundreds of parents and children at more than 20 schools in Lancashire, Cheshire, Manchester and Merseyside met in Liverpool late on Friday and approved plans to defeat the Government's regulations to phase out the schools.

The bishops are expected to hold their next meeting in October, probably just before the battle over direct grant schools takes place in Parliament.

Mr Graham Page, Conservative MP for Crosby, told the meeting that an Opposition "prayer" against the regulations, which were laid before Parliament last week, might be debated within two weeks of Parliament re-assembling on October 13. If the prayer was successful in either House the regulations would fall.

The Roman Catholics run 54 of the 173 direct grant grammar schools in the country.

The parents' campaign to save the schools grew out of a meeting in May in Merseyside addressed by Mr Norman St

John-Stevens, Opposition spokesman on education, science and the arts. The leader of the Catholic Direct Grant Action Committee is Mr Francis Crowley, a local schoolmaster, and the campaign is run from his home in Park Avenue, Crosby.

The committee decided on Saturday to call for an urgent meeting with the auxiliary Bishop of Birmingham, the Right Rev Anthony Emery, who is chairman of the Catholic Education Council. They will ask him to follow the lead given by Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, who has said he knows of no bishop who supports the Government's decision to phase out the schools from September, 1976.

Local meetings will be held in late September and early October at which parents will be asked to write to their MPs and to bombard the House of Lords with letters. Associations of parents in the schools will also be approached.

Public meetings will be held in the poor areas of Manchester and Liverpool to win support from lifelong Labour supporters, teachers and social workers. Mr Crowley said that more than four-fifths of Catholic children at the direct grant schools had free places.

Mr Martin Fraser, a lecturer at a college of further education, said the schools were too small, too far apart and ill-equipped to fit into a comprehensive system without heavy expenditure.

Humiliating pupils as alternative to cane

Teachers tend to humiliate secondary school pupils as an alternative punishment to caning more often than parents imagine, according to a report published today. It warns of the dangers of such treatment.

Techniques such as sarcasm, ridicule and making pupils stand at the front during assembly may achieve instant obedience, its says, but humiliated pupils may stay in class and await a chance for revenge.

Mr Peter Woods, an Open University Lecturer, lists some of the techniques teachers use to "show-up" pupils. He says that they may attempt to "shame" children into better work, often with a quiet word. But sometimes they do so in front of the class or assembly to inspire the other children.

Techniques include: "Baiting by reference to age: 'A child of five could have done this.'"

to the teacher in a feeling of intense dislike. "It is for the teachers to decide whether the restoration of order, the reinforcement of status, the quashing of the obnoxious individual and so on is fair exchange" Mr Woods says.

But another article reports that the most common treatments for persistent disruptive behaviour were withdrawal of privileges, extra work, and smacking.

The information was gathered from a census of all third and fourth-year primary teachers in 871 schools in Lancashire and Cumbria, in which 88 per cent of 1,258 teachers responded. More than half admitted to smacking. Fewer than one teacher in 10 claimed to have many children who created discipline difficulties, and 95 per cent found that a verbal reproof was usually sufficient.

Frontiers of Classroom Research, a National Foundation for Educational Research, £5.50

## NSPCC plea for children left at home

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children has appealed to parents who find they cannot look after their children during the summer holidays to ask the society for help.

It says increasing numbers of young children are being left alone, especially during school holidays, because inflation is forcing mothers to take jobs.

A spokesman said: "We are not a baby-minding service. But mothers who have to work during the school holidays because of inflation should find a responsible person to look after their children."

"If they cannot, we would rather they told us and got advice than leave them on their own. Anything can happen when a child is left alone."

MP to ask minister about 'guinea pig' patients

By Penny Symon, Political Staff

Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, is to be asked by Mr Robert Kilroy-Silk, Labour MP for Ormskirk, to explain why hospital consultants and family doctors are being paid to carry out clinical tests with new drugs, with no obligation on them to tell patients that they are being used for the purpose.

He is tabling seven Commons questions to Mrs Castle for written answer on Wednesday. One asks for legislation to ensure that no trial drugs are given by doctors to patients without their consent. He also wants to know how many doctors and patients are involved and how much money doctors are receiving from drug companies for carrying out the tests.

The Department of Health and Social Security agreed after inquiries arising out of a case before the General Medical Council that two types of experiment took place. A doctor received £100 from a drug company for tests on patients which, the company said, he falsified.

The first type of experiment was the true clinical trial which required departmental authority. There were about 100 such tests a year involving 700 to 800 doctors, the department added. In the second type of experiment a drug that was already licensed, although relatively new, could be tried

## MP to ask minister about 'guinea pig' patients

out by doctors on patients for drug companies, merely to get information on its efficiency.

General practitioners might be given money to cover their administrative costs or new pieces of equipment to keep. The doctors involved, the department said, were under no legal obligation to tell the patient in either trial that he was part of an experiment.

Mr Kilroy-Silk said yesterday that it was wrong that doctors were able to take on that sort of freelance activity for a fee. They were not qualified as researchers, and, particularly where guinea pig patients were concerned, the situation was worrying.

"There are a lot of questions that need answering about this, and the Department of Health seems to have adopted a very blasé attitude about it", he said.

In one experiment, he said, 350 patients, with an average age of 74, many of whom were seriously ill, were given sleeping tablets one day and dummy tablets the next.

"The account of the experiment does not make clear how the consent of the patients was obtained, if at all, and whether it was ethical to carry out this sort of experiment", he said.

"It occurred in seven hospitals, with old, ill people, and it is this sort of occurrence that makes me very worried about what is going on. That is why it is vital that Mrs Castle be asked my provocative questions."

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WEST EUROPE

Moderate colonel tries to regain control of Portuguese regiment

From Michael Kalpe  
Lisbon, Aug 3

With tension growing between moderates and left-wingers within the Portuguese Armed Forces Movement, a full assembly of the Commando Regiment is due to take place tomorrow which may significantly affect the political balance.

Colonel Jaime Neves, a moderate officer, was removed from command of the regiment on Thursday by a group of left-wing soldiers, attempting to regain control of his unit.

General Otelo Saraiva de Carvalho, a member of the ruling military triumvirate and commander of Copcon, the internal security force, who initially backed the mutineers and transferred Colonel Neves, seven of his officers and four sergeants, has agreed to reopen the matter.

Colonel Neves has openly challenged the left-wing control of the Armed Forces Movement (AFM) and admitted he would be prepared, if necessary, to join a counter-coup to put the revolution back on the right track. He has accused the 340-man assembly of the AFM of being dominated by a minority.

He has criticized the direction the AFM is taking in a series of interviews with Portuguese newspapers.

Asked by the newspaper *O Capital* what his attitude would be to a new coup, Colonel Neves replied: "I can say I would take part in a coup. But it depends on the coup. I would only do it if it would benefit, without any

Coup ousts leader of Comores Islands

From Richard Wigg  
Paris, Aug 3

President Ahmed Abdallah, who declared the Comores Islands unilaterally independent just under a month ago, was today himself deposed by opposition elements, according to reports from the former French colony.

Mr Abdallah was apparently absent from Moroni, the capital, on Grande Comore Island and on his native island of Anjouan when the coup occurred. The islands are between Madagascar and the east African coast.

Confusion was reported in various parts of the capital, and the main army barracks and government offices, including the radio, were quickly seized by the rebels.

News of the coup was given on the radio this afternoon by Mr Ali Souli, spokesman of the self-styled "United Front of Opposition Parties" which had for some time grouped themselves against the autocratic governing ways of the Comores president.

Mr Souli said: "In the name of my all, I announce the Abdallah Government has fallen from this moment. The representatives of the political groups of the archipelago, without exception, will be summoned to concert moves so as to create a democratic able to preserve the territorial integrity of the archipelago and its progress."

Another island in the archipelago, Mayotte, where the population is predominantly Christian—the rest of the islands are predominantly Muslim—voted by 65 per cent to stay French in the referendum organized by the Abdallah Government last November, a verdict which Paris has indicated it accepted. It does not seem, however, that Mayotte had any part in today's coup.

Speaking on French radio tonight, Mr Souli proposed discussions with Mayotte leaders, saying he believed they were not systematically against independence but feared the deposed President, whom he blamed for having provoked the "break up" of the Comores.

In the December referendum Mr Abdallah had a triumphant 95 per cent total poll, in favour of independence, spread over the four islands.

There are four parties grouped in the opposition movement. The most important is the Umma Party, led by Prince Said Muhammad, who is a former president of the armed forces of the Comores, where he preceded Mr Abdallah. The son of the last independent sultan before the French arrived in the late nineteenth century, he is thought to be one of the leaders of today's coup.

Warsaw to allow 125,000 Germans to leave Poland

From Our Correspondent  
Berlin, Aug 3

The agreement between Poland and West Germany to allow up to 125,000 Germans to leave Poland reached after eight hours of tough bargaining between the two countries' leaders in Helsinki, is to be initiated in Bonn this week.

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, and Mr Gierok, the Polish party leader, agreed that the movement of Germans to take place over the next four years, would be balanced by West German credits to the value of DM1,000m (about £180m) plus a lump sum of DM1,300m (about £240m).

The credits will be offered at an interest rate of 2.5 per cent. Since the agreement was reached on the night of July 31, Mr Gierok has let it be known that he will pay his long-postponed visit to Bonn next year.

German political parties have been mixed. The Social Democrat and Free Democrat coalition parties have welcomed the settlement, but the opposition Christian Democrats, allies of Poland of a blackmail approach.

A spokesman for the Federation of Expellees claimed that the figure for Germans allowed to leave Poland was short by 100,000, and the daily paper *Berliner Morgenpost* alleged that the nominated figure left out 160,000 people anxious to come to West Germany.

It headlined its editorial today "extortions", recalling that Herr Schmidt was told that applications for exit permits could also be filed after the four-year term.

Cash collected after kidnap boy's murder

Spyer, Aug 3.—A German bricklayer today led police to the body of the schoolboy aged 13, who he kidnapped and murdered on Friday before collecting a £15,000 ransom from the boy's family.

Siegfried Nothacker, aged 37, was arrested yesterday after attempting to pay for petrol with some of the ransom money delivered by the father of Willy Zimmermann, who was already dead.

Herr Nothacker, who worked for the family transport company, as first maintained he had freed the boy unharmed shortly after picking him up from school on Friday.

In a letter statement to police, Herr Nothacker—who was convicted of murder in 1954—said he fired a gas pistol into the boy's face when he attempted to leap from the kidnaper car during an aimless drive through the city. He then strangled the boy with a belt.—AP.

US lawyer alleges torture of Basque detainees

By a Staff Reporter

Torture of detainees in the Basque region is alleged by an American lawyer who recently returned from a 10-day mission to Spain on behalf of Amnesty International.

Mr Thomas Jones, from Washington, said he was convinced that all the police forces taken part in the torture of Basques—10-day mission to Spain on behalf of Amnesty International.

Mr Jones visited Madrid as well as the Basque region between July 19 and 29.

Mr Hans Ehrenstrale, deputy secretary-general of Amnesty International, said that Mr Jones's findings were conclusive and appalling.

"It is beyond doubt," he said, "that the Spanish security forces have defied all accepted international, including European, legal standards prohibiting the use of torture and have violated the constitution of Spain itself."

He called on the Spanish Government to initiate an independent judicial inquiry into the treatment of Basque prisoners by the various law enforcement bodies.

Most of the alleged torture occurred during the first five weeks of the "state of exception" declared on April 25 in the provinces of Vizcaya and Guipuzcoa.

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Gruelling start to holiday season

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug 3

The first weekend of France's August holiday migration has been the most gruelling seen off, in terms of traffic bottlenecks, for the past 10 years. By night an estimated three million men, women and children had departed by road or rail to take their statutory one month's paid holiday.

M. Robert Galley, the Minister of Public Works, is responsible for the roads programme, estimated a 20 per cent increase in traffic over last year. However, France expanded its building programme, he said, no system could hope to solve the problem posed by such a volume of departures all concentrated in a three-day period starting Friday.

Police claimed that the record bottlenecks on the main roads to the Mediterranean coast were due to a substantial increase in the number of foreign cars. French families who got up early to leave Paris found by the morning the way ahead blocked by mammoth traffic jams. Others had been forced to sleep on the roadside.

The worst traffic hold ups were in the south-west, where the Spanish border was continued sporadically to harass road and rail traffic.

An explosive device today damaged a transformer of the French State Electricity Board at Luget, near Montpellier, the centre of the region of the discontented winemakers, depriving part of the town of power supplies.

Paris, Aug 3.—A record 40-mile long traffic jam formed today between Narbonne and the Spanish border as French police reported an estimated three million vehicles carrying holiday-makers to and from Spain.—AP.

Peter Nichols writes from Rome: The height of the holiday season in Italy, which began this weekend, has been marked by heavy pressure on the motorways, railways and airports.

Once again, the ferry system from Civitavecchia, north of Rome, to Sardinia has been crippled by the number of passengers wanting to make use of it, and yesterday, by the strike of ferryboat crews, which was only settled last night. Before the strike was called off some 15,000 people were waiting in the summer heat to embark.

The *Turin* newspaper *La Stampa* pointed out today that many remained inactive during the present period of lack of investment and, even worse, runs the risk of being lent to inefficient public administration.

80 pc French support for limited nudism

From Our Own Correspondent  
Paris, Aug 3

A public opinion poll to be published tomorrow by the weekly *LE-press* shows that 80 per cent of those questioned believed that nudism should be permitted in special areas in France.

The *Sofres* poll estimates that 76 per cent of French people would not object to tax assessments on the male breasts displayed in public, although if the breasts happened to be those of their own wives only 47 per cent of men would approve and 49 per cent disapprove.

£700,000 tax repayment by Rome to wealthy family

From Our Own Correspondent  
Rome, Aug 3

The debt-ridden municipality of Rome has had its troubles increased with an order to repay to the Torlonia family more than £700,000 in local taxes paid from 1957 to 1971.

The Torlonia family, according to published tax assessments, is the richest family in the city. The decision to make the municipality repay some of their taxes was apparently taken some seven months ago and has only now been revealed as the result of a question raised in the Rome municipal council by a Communist councillor.

The municipal councillor for taxation matters has appealed against the decision, but by law it is already operative.

Prince Torlonia, who is 30 and the head of the family, includes among his titles the dukedom of Genoa and Viscount at the Papal Throne. He is a big landowner.

The decision has caused widespread criticism on the ground of the Prince's great wealth and for the light it throws on the slow activity of the tax authorities.

OVERSEAS



Indians from all over Britain marched in London yesterday to present to Mr S. K. Nehru, their High Commissioner, demands for the release of political prisoners and the restoration of democratic institutions in India.

Delhi defied over emergency

From Peter Hazell  
Ravallipindi, Aug 3

Delhi and the opposition between the people to keep cool and behave in a manner which befits those who claim to be followers of Mahatma Gandhi," he is reported to have said.

Indian leaders apparently allowed the Press Trust of India to publish Mr Patel's statement—an indication that the central Government might be attempting to build up a case to justify future plans to intervene in the recalcitrant state.

Under the constitution law and order in the 21 federal

Portugal plans Angola airlift of 250,000

Luanda, Aug 3.—Another four Boeing airliners packed with Portuguese refugees were leaving Luanda for Lisbon today as the biggest exodus of white settlers from Africa since the Algerian war gathered momentum.

Evacuation plans announced yesterday by a senior Portuguese official provide for about 250,000 whites to be flown out of Angola within the next three months.

About 125,000 Portuguese have already left the country, which is due to become independent on November 11. Estimates of the original Portuguese population in Angola have ranged from 350,000 to 600,000. An estimated 1,500 white non-Portuguese are still left, including 800 West Germans in a farming community in eastern Angola. Reports today said that the West German Government was making arrangements for a ship to evacuate them on Tuesday.

A Portuguese military communiqué today reported clashes between the Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA) and the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) at Benguela, about 430 miles south of Luanda.—Reuter.

Kinshasa, Mr J. E. Pinnock, a member of the National Front for the Liberation of Angola (FNLA) at Benguela, about 430 miles south of Luanda.—Reuter.

Mr Reagan to run for presidency

From Patrick Brogan  
Washington, Aug 3

Mr Ronald Reagan, the former governor of California, has decided to run for the Republican nomination next year against President Ford.

He has set up a campaign organization in Washington, whose vice-chairman, Mr John Sears, told a group of reporters on Friday: "We all think he is going to run. Why else would we do all this stuff?"

Later, Mr Sears, who is the effective chairman although a senate holds the title, said that none of the 10 people working for Mr Reagan in Washington doubted that he would make an official announcement of his candidacy before the end of this year—and that Reagan knows exactly what his supporters in Washington are doing.

This is the way presidential candidates act. First they drop hints, then they let it be known that they will definitely decide to announce their candidacies and at last they do so. Mr Reagan now joins Governor George Wallace of Alabama in the second stage.

The Reagan people expect Mr Reagan to run well in the early primaries, but Mr Sears doubts that they can so decisively defeat Mr Ford that he will withdraw from the field as Mr Johnson did.

Mr Ford strengthens ties with Romania

Sinaia, Romania, Aug 3.—The right of Romania to choose its own style of Communism was endorsed today by President Ford, who also pledged new efforts to expand trade and other contacts with the country.

Mr Ford flew on to Yugoslavia after signing a document granting most favoured nation terms for American trade with Romania, the first Communist country to enter into such relationship with the United States since Congress linked trade and free emigration.

The two countries agreed to continue to pursue humanitarian problems, an oblique reference to United States interest in the Jewish emigration issue.

The American President will spend one hour in Britain tomorrow night, on a refuelling stop at Mildenhall air base, Suffolk, on his way back to Washington after a 10-day European tour.

A Foreign Office official will greet Mr Ford on British soil.

In a communiqué, Mr Ford joined President Ceausescu of Romania in "emphasizing support" for every nation's right to choose its own destiny, free from the use or threat of force.

The new commitment was welcomed by Romanian officials as the kind of bulwark they consider psychologically important, despite Soviet acceptance in Helsinki of a principle renouncing the use of force.

Bougainville to secede from New Guinea

Port Moresby, Aug 3.—The leaders of Bougainville's secession movement announced tonight that the copper-rich Pacific island would break away from the rest of Papua-New Guinea on September 1.

The statement was prepared by Mr Aloysius Noga, the Bougainville provincial government's secretary for anti-secessionist activities. Mr Noga said the Bougainville district planner, and Father John Mommis, the island's regional representative in the Papua-New Guinea Assembly.

Mr Hannu said the decision was made by 37 leaders from all over the island.

The September 1 declaration will precede by only 15 days Papua-New Guinea's own independence celebrations.—Reuter.

New York heatwave killing

From Our Correspondent  
New York, Aug 3

A man was shot and killed by his neighbour in a fight that developed over a fire hydrant which was spraying all over the street.

Mr Rafael Millan, who had a complaint about the low water pressure caused by the hydrant, was a victim of the annual violence that distinguishes New York's heat waves from their benign English equivalents.

Mr Brezhnev's triumph

Moscow, Aug 3.—The Soviet press today hailed the week's European summit in Helsinki as a "triumph of the peaceful policy" of the Soviet Communist Party, with Leonid Brezhnev at its head.

But it attacked "Maoist provocateurs" and "imperialist reactions" and said they were working together to fan the cold war.

Swedes warned Ford aircraft

Stockholm, Aug 3.—The United States Air Force jet carrying President Ford from Helsinki to Bucharest strayed from its flight path towards the Swedish military zone and was warned off by an interceptor, the Swedish General Staff said today.

A fighter equipped with air-to-air missiles warned it back to its authorized air lane.—Reuter.

20 executions in Ethiopia

Addis Ababa, Aug 3.—Ethiopian radio announced today that 20 people had been executed for anti-government activities. It accused them of killing farmers and other people loyal to the military Government.

Since deposing Emperor Haile Selassie last year the military Government has executed about 200 people, including leading members of the aristocracy and the former Government.

Rabies alert declared in Australia

Canberra, Aug 3.—A rabies alert was declared in Australia today after a man in hospital in Melbourne was suspected of being a victim. He had been bitten by an animal while on holiday in Bangkok. Australia is one of the few rabies-free countries in the world.—Reuter.

Nigerian unions back new regime

From Nicholas Ashford  
Accra, Aug 3

The new regime in Nigeria has spent the weekend consolidating its position within the country. Yesterday the military government reopened the borders, which had been closed since the coup (except for visitors from countries in the West African Community), and permitted the resumption of international flights.

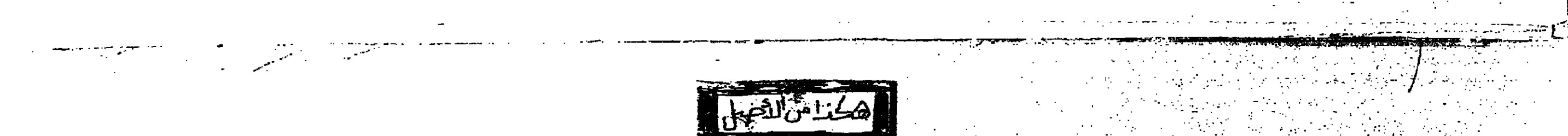
Several hundred British and other foreign travellers who had been stranded in Nigeria since the coup queued at airports and airline offices to secure seats on the few available aircraft.

Brigadier Murtala Mohammed's Government has received further pledges of support from leading Nigerians, including some who have lost their posts since the coup.

More important, they have also received the backing of the trade unions. Mr Samuel Udoji, General Secretary of the Nigerian Trade Union Federation, said that union members agreed with the new Head of State that the country had been "drifting aimlessly".

Nigeria's unions have emerged as a formidable force in the south, particularly since the wave of strikes which followed the controversial Udoji report on pay awards for public sector employees. The unions are increasingly emerging as the only organized force in the country apart from the Army.

Meanwhile, the success of Nigeria's coup is continuing to cause alarm among some of Africa's military rulers. Lieutenant-General Seyi Kunkun, the Niger head of state, has announced the arrest of three of the country's leaders, including his former mentor, General Abacha, accused them of attempting to divide the people and set up an ideological clique.





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## OVERSEAS

President Amin promises to seek  
advice of colleagues before  
taking action as OAU chairman

Our Correspondent  
Kampala, Aug 3  
President Amin of Uganda, new chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), has promised to seek the advice of his colleagues before taking any action as OAU chairman. He made the promise at a post-conference meeting of the press at the weekend, when he was restrained and in a bid to dispel fears that in his new office he would commit OAU to policies more extreme than most of its members would accept.

He insisted that he would not take any action on behalf of the OAU without first consulting other heads of state. He rejected suggestions that he was achieving by the Kampala summit and that it had been unable to tackle some of the African issues. The conference opened on Friday evening and closed on an all-night session at a time on Friday. From the outset, there appeared to be limits to its ability to do anything in the way of matters in detail.

Observers thought it was a achievement that the conference managed to clear even a few of the hurdles in its path. The most difficult question used was that of Palestine in the Middle East. There was a strong Arab lobby in the conference, with Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, prominent, although his status was that of an observer.

Some African states declined to join the extreme Arab line, but the call for expulsion of Israel from the United Nations, in this way showed their independence of thought. The Nigerian coup, which General Gowon soon had delivered a last speech to the conference.

ence reviewing liberation and the Angolan situation, tended to defuse the expected attacks on the Rhodesian and South African regimes.

However, the OAU reinforced its backing for the African National Council in Rhodesia with a promise to support guerrilla action if peaceful methods fail. He reaffirmed that if Mr Vorster wanted a dialogue, it must be with the Pan-Africanist Congress and the African National Congress in his own country.

Economic issues tended to be overshadowed by political ones; but African countries are preparing to take a strong line at the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly on ways of securing a realistic return for their production of commodities.

Questioned about the declaration of independence for Cabinda by its liberation movement, which the OAU's representative in Kampala was not accorded observer status, President Amin said the three Angolan liberation movements agreed that Cabinda was an integral part of Angola. However, the OAU's declaration commission, which is to be sent to Angola, would consider the matter.

Meanwhile, four bomb explosions in and around Kampala during the past week, which caused little damage, have resulted in Field Marshal Amin's Government making an all-out effort to track down members of the Uganda Liberation Movement who claim responsibility for them.

The underground movement is, however, believed to be a small affair with no mass support. The identity of its leaders is not known. No reports of the bombs have been published in Uganda.

After the initial explosions, some of which damaged electricity pylons near Kampala

without affecting the main power supply, an anonymous telephone call to a Nairobi newspaper threatened further explosions if heads of state attending the OAU conference did not return home immediately. But no further explosions appear to have occurred.

Armed troops guarded the conference centre in Kampala, as well as the telephone exchange and other key points. Guards were also seen on electricity sub-stations and there were groups of uniformed police every few yards along the 21-mile road from Kampala to Entebbe airport.

The underground movement may be hoping to draw support from the widespread discontent at high prices and shortages of essential goods which have been evident in Uganda for more than a year. Special arrangements were made to shield delegates and others attending the OAU conference from the shortages, and supplies of bread, butter, beer, soft drinks and toilet paper were specially released for the occasion.

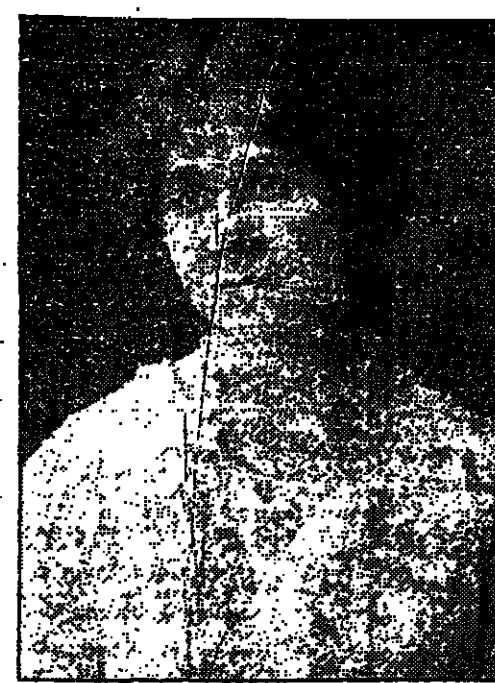
President Amin himself showed no concern for his own position while chairing the conference. He says he plans to visit several newly independent African countries during his year as OAU chairman.

Tel Aviv, Aug 3.—President Amin once asked Israel for military aid to battle the Saboteurs, and when this was refused, relations between the two countries began to deteriorate. Mr Abba Eban, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, said today.

But even during the honeymoon between Uganda and Israel, he said, "I had the impression that man was not mature from the mental viewpoint—and he is now not only head of state of one of the richest of the African states but head of the biggest block in the United Nations".—Reuter.

## The Royal Ladies

## How a reluctant Queen established royalty as a profession



A formal portrait as a young woman

With the king on honeymoon in 1933



As a child with her elder sister



Flowers for grandmother on her birthday

In her role of mother with the two princesses

Cairo and PLO split  
on expulsion plan

Paul Martin  
Cairo, Aug 3  
A serious rift has developed between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). President Sadat's stand against efforts to mobilize Arab support for Israel's expulsion from the United Nations, a bitter attack, the Egyptian declaration that Egyptian behaviour at the Organisation of African Unity summit in Kampala constituted "disavowal of defence" of Israel, and the Egyptian campaign against the guerrillas and their Arab supporters at the summit, have all contributed to the split. The Egyptian campaign has limited to the PLO and its allies the eventual chances could be for the Arab unity forged in the war against Israel.

The question of Israel's expulsion from the United Nations is a debated point among the Arab states. Although Egypt believes it should be used as a threat to Israel, it has opposed it to put the issue to the United Nations General Assembly. To do so, it argued, would scuttle the peace efforts and drive a wedge between the Arabs and the United States.

For their success at the summit, the PLO and hardliners had hoped to "through with a united vote of support for Israel's

expulsion by the African states. This was to have been an important stepping stone in the campaign to win Third World support for the final result on Israel at the General Assembly. Hence, Egypt's moderating influence on the African leaders has put it in the firing line.

In its official organ *Al-Fustat* at Thaur, the PLO declared that the Egyptian moves at the Kampala summit exposed "American schemes" in the area. "This was clearly revealed when there rose those willing to defend the rights of Israel to remain in the world body," the newspaper said.

This was in spite of the fact that it meant disavowing their national commitment to the Palestine case and flagrant deviation from the resolutions of the Rabat (Arab) summit and the United Nations.

It went on to allege: "This Egyptian attitude is the culmination of successive deviations which today form the ground work of the new Egyptian policy towards all Arab and international issues. If anything, this attitude shows that the price of a fistful of Sinai soil is the recognition of the Zionist entity and even the defence of its international legality, which rightfully belongs to Palestine and its people."

As a result, it declared, it had become an urgent "revolutionary and national target" for the Palestinians to define their attitude to Egypt's policy.

Khartoum, Aug 3.—Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, today called for a policy-coordination conference between Egypt, Syria and Jordan and the PLO.—UPI.

## UN-Israel talks in Stockholm

From Our Correspondent  
Stockholm, Aug 3  
Dr Kurt Waldheim, the United Nations Secretary-General, flew unexpectedly to Stockholm today for an airport meeting with Mr Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

The United Nations leader told reporters after a 90-minute session that they discussed the possibility of a meeting between the two sides in the Middle East peace agreement and Arab pressures to expel Israel from the United Nations.

The meeting, held in VIP rooms at Stockholm airport, was requested by Dr Waldheim and arranged through the Swedish Government. He flew from Vienna this morning to meet Mr Rabin, who had been in Stockholm for a Socialist international conference.

Later today, Dr Waldheim returned to Vienna and Mr Rabin flew to Tel Aviv.

## Egypt arrest of 20 communists in secret groups

Cairo, Aug 3.—A secret communist organization has been uncovered in Egypt. Its 20 members have been arrested and charged with attempts to overthrow the government and change the state's economic and political system. Cairo newspapers reported today.

Al-Akhar said that the organization, the International Communist League, had links with the Arab Communist Organization in Syria.

## Turkish Cypriots ready for exodus to the north

Pola, Cyprus, Aug 3.—Hundreds of Turkish Cypriots packed their belongings today in preparation for the move to the northern sector of the island, which has been controlled by Turkey since last year's invasion.

Under an agreement announced yesterday between leaders of the two Cypriot communities, more than 9,000 Turkish Cypriots, mainly in Paphos area, will be free to cross into the Turkish-controlled zone if they so wish.

In return, a similar number of Greek Cypriots living in enclaves in the Turkish zone will be free to remain there if they desire.

The agreement to allow the Turks to go north, reached at talks in Vienna, has led many observers to say that the separa-

tion of the two communities, under a Federal Government, is now an established fact. Mr Osman Orik, the Turkish Cypriots' deputy leader, has estimated that Turks in the south are scattered in 60 villages and towns with mixed ethnic groups.

On Monday, Aug 3.—Mr Glafkos Clerides, the leader of the Greek community in Cyprus, and Mr Rauf Denkash, his Turkish counterpart, left here today in cheerful mood after their third round of talks which ended yesterday.

The two men were all smiles as they boarded separate aircraft for the return to Cyprus. Mr Clerides left for Athens, where he is expected to spend about two days in talks with the Greek Government, while Mr Denkash will have stopovers in Ankara and Istanbul.

Greek hopes forprus  
flement rise

Our Correspondent  
Athens, Aug 3  
Greek hopes for a settlement of the Cyprus issue have been as a result of the active display by the nine members of the European Community, the back-stage talks in Helsinki and the intercommunal talks in Vienna.

President Makris, is usually reserved about the future of the Cyprus issue. In Athens: "After the success at Helsinki there are more chances for a just solution of the Cyprus problem."

He flew back from Helsinki Mr Karamanlis, the Greek Prime Minister, and they expressed views during the trip.

## Officers 'spread fear' before coup

Mario Modiano  
Athens, Aug 3  
A retired brigadier who was of Greek Army intelligence at the time of the 1967 coup, has disclosed that the number of officers involved in the coup did not exceed 70.

General Panagiotis Panagiotou, now a Member of Parliament and Under-Secretary of State, said after the coup he had a list of the 70 officers involved. He had been a member of the coup, but he had not been involved in the coup. He had been a member of the coup, but he had not been involved in the coup.

Court of Appeal on Saturday at the trial of the 20 junta leaders charged with high treason and revolt. His testimony shed new light on the pattern of the conspiracy organized by Mr George Papadopoulos, the former dictator and now chief defendant.

The brigadier said: "Papadopoulos was the nucleus. He himself told me that in 1956 or 1958 he had made strong recommendations in favour of a sort of army intervention in the event of high Communist electoral gains."

Brigadier Panagiotou attributed the success of the 1967 coup, first, to a climate of fear about an impending Communist revolt, created by the conspira-

tors by fabricating alarming reports submitted to the police and military leaders of the country and to the king, and secondly to their ability to control the posting of officers.

The brigadier disclosed that Mr Nikolaos Makarezos who was serving at the Central Intelligence Service, had called on him about one month before the 1967 coup with a confidential report.

It alleged that thousands of Soviet chomgins with a spare barrel for bullets, had been imported into Greece, that the Communists were inspecting the Athens sewers for possible storage of explosives, and even that when the time came, Soviet submarines would have landed troops in southern Greece.

The seventy-fifth birthday of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother today is a suitable occasion to survey the success with which she has modernized, humanized and brought the monarchy into today, establishing the modern image of the profession of "being Royal". The role of our royal ladies is significant and the youngest generation who are now supporting cast to the monarchy are, in their attitudes and their work, the direct result of over 50 years pioneering by the Queen.

George V in 1923.

Of these younger women, some were born royal and others married royalty. When Elizabeth Bowes Lyon married the Duke of York, she became an HRH herself on the way to becoming, unexpectedly, a reluctant Queen and then the Queen Mother of today.

Fifty years ago the Establishment was fairly rigid. But tireless, dedicated, shrewd and tough, the Duchess gave confidence to her shy stammering husband and they both brought their two girls up in a happy and secure home. "Your work is the rent you pay for life," she told them. They were never behind with the rent.

The Smart Young People of the twenties expected the "Little Duchess" to be a sentimental, sweetly pretty person. They could not have been more wrong. She had formidable if surprising allies, George V and Queen Mary, whom she loved and who loved her. It soon became evident that the Duke of York was gaining in confidence and poise in the background of his home and children, and about the intensely difficult days leading to the Abdication. Queen Mary remained steady-minded: she is reported to have said "This is a pretty kettle of fish—we might be in Rumania." Between them Queen Mary and the new Queen kept the monarchy on even keel and the Duke and Duchess of York faced an unwanted future as King and Queen in some of the most perilous years of Britain's history.

The new Queen set about meeting the people in whom she was, and is, always deeply interested. She is never bored, never shows fatigue and has accepted total involvement in her job—entirely new living profession of being Royal. No one, born royalty or not, is born with the expertise needed smoothly to carry out a wide variety of duties: launching ships, inspecting guards of honour, conferring and receiving degrees, opening festivals, visiting every type of estate, factory, hospital or home, speaking at dinners, meetings, the Guildhall or Royal Academy. Royal ladies need to do their homework, even though they get support from their entourages, and their hosts.

There is intense and understandable interest in what the younger royal ladies are like and how they measure up to their work. There is also an avid appetite for key-hole gossip—and what less reputable sources and has accepted cannot find out, they invent. But there are still many who write with care and discrimination. In Britain we have "Helen Cathcart", an elusive person busily reinterpreted by Mr Harold Albert, and there are David Duff, Jennifer Ellis and Graham and Helen Fisher among the careful chroniclers. But, above all, there is Andrew Duncan, author of *The Reality of Monarchy*, who travelled for a year and some 50,000 miles following the Queen on her public and semi-public engagements, who has talked with 11 members of the Royal Family and analysed in depth their personalities, activities and incomes. I am indebted to him for some facts that I quote with his permission.

In this generation of younger royal ladies, but slightly older than the

others, is Princess Margaret. Even had she not been born daughter of a king and sister of a queen, life would have been difficult for her and with "as much privacy as a goldfish in a bowl". She has been entirely vulnerable to ill-informed and sometimes vicious criticism aimed at herself and her husband. At 40, she has deserved better than this. My own first memory of her is at the end of the last war, when at Windsor Castle in the Waterloo Room she and her sister stood alone in the centre as a stream of guests was presented to them; each one to talk for a few minutes and then he taken away as replacements were led up. It was a test both of hosts and guests, but the two girls of 17 and 13 were learning their job. When I arrived it was clear that Princess Elizabeth, though smiling, had run out of small talk. Princess Margaret gaily came to the rescue, asking a couple of relevant questions to which my uniform gave her a clue and cheerfully worrying that her French would not be equal to the foreign guests. As I was moved away, I saw Princess Margaret flash a smile of encouragement to her tired sister.

Today, having weathered her personal troubles of the past, she undertakes about 100 official engagements a year, receives an allowance of £15,000 and holds top-ranking appointments. She is Colonel-in-Chief to a variety of regiments: Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, and the Australian WRAC, is Commandant of St John Ambulance Brigade and Grand President of its Ambulance Association, as well as president of the Girl Guides. Yet there is not so much demand for "the Snowdon" as for others.

Princess Margaret's loyalty to her sister, the Queen, is absolute, as well as her admiration for her. She told Andrew Duncan that "as long as The Family can produce nicely brought up young people it will be all right."

As the youngest of the supporting cast of royal ladies, it is possible for us to assess, in Princess Anne, the liberation that the Queen Mother achieved for her children and grandchildren. Princess Anne, Mrs Mark Phillips, is a good example of the freedom given her by her parents to "do her thing" and get into the mainstream of her day and age. Results have been good both for her and for her professional work as a royal lady. "Anne is lucky," she went to school, she's tough," another younger royal lady is reported to have said, and it is true that the rough-and-tumble of her riding has contributed to her ability to take things as they come and cope with them.

It is characteristic of what is expected of her that, on the day after the announcement of her engagement on May 29, 1973, she had been seen through the ordeal of public photography at Buckingham Palace, she kept her appointment to visit the Riding School for the Disabled at Radnage in Buckinghamshire.

She was 19 when she carried out her first full-dress royal "chore", presenting looks to the Welsh Guards on St David's Day in 1963 at Pibright. Before her marriage she had been known to fit in 17 public engagements in six days. Like her father, she is quick in repartee and fairly uninhibited in her public utterances. The girl who had handled a car on a police skidpan, driven a 52 ton Chieftain tank, scored 11 bulls out of 20 rounds firing a sub-machine gun from the hip, was well able to stand up to the raging publicity after her engagement with more or less good temper. The terrifying experience of the attempted kidnapping in the Mall was not pleasant but she and Captain Phillips showed great courage and con-

ness and gratitude and sympathy to their bodyguard, chauffeur and others injured.

Sympathy went out to her from her age group when she did not do well enough in her GCE A levels to justify going to university, and also when she took a crash course at a language school in French. To her own generation Princess Anne is a trendsetter, as well as a young woman who will tackle anything once, who writes all her own speeches and whose off-the-cuff remarks are worth listening for. As the only girl in the Queen's family of boys she is remarkably unspoiled—and hard-worked.

It is possible that the Queen Mother felt understanding sympathy for the young Duke of Gloucester and his fair-haired Danish wife, Birgitte van Deurs, when, unexpectedly, they were thrust into the front line of royal duties with responsibilities they had not anticipated. When Prince Richard of Gloucester, the second son of the then ailing duke, was up at Cambridge qualifying to become an architect, he met a Danish girl studying languages. When Miss van Deurs married Prince Richard in July, 1974, all seemed set fair for him to follow his chosen profession and Miss van Deurs left her post at the Danish Embassy with a pleasant life ahead. . . . but within six weeks the elder son of the Duke of Gloucester was killed in an air accident and Prince Richard became the heir to the dukedom. Prince and Princess Richard were faced with some of the responsibilities of Barnwell Manor, near Peterborough, the home of the duke, where Princess Alice (as she now is) was gallantly carrying on. When father died in 1974, the new Royal Duke and his Duchess faced a mounting list of engagements and responsibilities.

Birgitte van Deurs took the transition from a secretarial job to that of a Royal Duchess with great simplicity and ease. Her lady-in-waiting, Mrs Michael Wigley, says: "She's just herself. . . . and she ought to know. The royal image has rubbed off on her and she started with a real interest in people. The first royal tour of the Duke and Duchess was to Mexico in the winter of 1973 and much is due to the support of Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Bland, who has looked after the office of the Duke of Gloucester as private secretary to Princess Alice and now to the new Duke and Duchess.

Her public life the young Duchess for going by air to launch the frigate HMS Ardent with a leg in plaster after a skiing accident. The difficulty and danger that attended the birth of their son, got for the Duke and Duchess ready sympathy and now, as I was told at Kensington Palace, Alexander, Earl of Ulster, aged just on 6 months, is very well indeed. The news was completed by the sight of his father pushing the baby's pram in the garden. They make the most use of time—the Duke still occasionally gets to his architect's offices—and each weekend they go to Barnwell with Alexander and his Norland nurse Marilyn Walton.

The Duke and Duchess really did take the examinations of the St John Ambulance and the Duchess is Commandant in Chief of the Nursing Division in Wales, President of the London Region of the WRVS, of the Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus among many other appointments which have her patronage and lively interest.

Miss Worsley of Yorkshire stepped right into the front line of younger royal ladies when she married the Duke of Kent in June of 1961. At first she was very much an Army wife. The Duke of Kent is a professional soldier

and his wife, then aged 28, was with him for three or four years in Germany and then Hongkong, so it was really a slow start to embarking on the public life of a royal lady. It was natural that, once back in England, she should accept a Yorkshire appointment as Chancellor of Leeds University and become Controller-Commander to the WRAC, a post held by the late Princess Royal. She is also Honorary Major-General and Colonel-in-Chief of the Royal Catering Corps.

There are really three categories of her work and interests, her Yorkshire activities, Leeds International Piano contest, York City Trust, Yorkshire County Cricket and the Yorkshire Volunteers. Then there are the interests that date from the days when the Kents lived at Iwer in Bucks—the Mothers' Union, the Women's Institute which, when they went to live at Ammer Hall near Sandringham, she transferred to their Norfolk counterparts. The Duchess stressed that she wants to play an active part in the life of the country. And then there are the organizations and causes with which she has identified herself: Age Concern, Distressed Gentlefolk's Aid, work for arthritis, spastics, epileptics, rheumatics, among them. She organizes her time so that all these have at least one visit from her every year and she fulfils her duties as Chancellor of Leeds University attending at least once a year for conferring degrees.

The three Kents, the Earl of St Andrews, Lady Helen Windsor, 11, and Lord Nicholas Windsor, nearly three, are happy in their Norfolk home with a liberal supply of animals. The Duchess is one of the best-dressed of the royals: she takes infinite pains to wear the right outfit for each occasion and the styles she chooses are clear cut and unfussy.

As a rule public opinion is basically shrewd: and the daughter of "Princess Marina" was taken to the hearts of all who watched her grow up and her marriage to the Hon Angus Ogilvy in 1963 was thoroughly popular. As Alexandra was thoroughly popular, as Alexandra grew up Princess Margaret was reported to have said that it would be a help when she could undertake some of the royal duties. It is an advantage for Princess Alexandra that she went to school—Heathfield gave her education and poise. Mr Ogilvy is said to have refused a title on his marriage and there was more public reaction in his favour. He is a hard-working businessman.

The family home is Thatched House Lodge in Richmond Park and it was here that Princess Anne and her husband spent the night after their wedding before leaving on their honeymoon. The Ogilvys have two children, James Robert Bruce aged 11 and Marina, nearly nine. The Princess has her own household and her office in Kensington Palace where her private secretary, Miss Mona Mitchell, handles a considerable amount of arrangements for public and other engagements.

From the best of all press officers, Miss Anne Hawkins of Buckingham Palace, I learn that there is no "clearing house" for royal engagements; would be too complicated. For those out of London, it is the Lords Lieutenant of the Counties on whom they rely so that two sets of royal visitors do not arrive at the same place on the same day. The mass of work behind the scenes to ensure a smooth royal visit can be imagined, but it is part of the equipment of the royal ladies that they can cope with the unexpected, recognize old friends and take the initiative when interest is needed in something unscheduled.

Joan Woolcombe  
© Joan Woolcombe, 1975



## ENTERTAINMENTS

When advertising use profits of only one London Metropolitan Area

## OPERA AND BALLET

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## CONCERTS

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## THE ARTS

BBC SO/Groves  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

## Joan Chissell

Once upon a time when Beethoven reigned supreme, a Friday Prom drew the crowds. For last Friday's mixture of Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Mendelssohn there were some empty seats. Perhaps Sir Lennox Berkeley (currently commenting on Proms in the Radio Times) was not the only person dubious about the acoustical suitability of the Albert Hall for Sir William Glock's innovation, upheld by his successor, Robert Postovsky, of including a chamber work of two in each season's syllabus.

In point of fact there was no need for concern. Brahms's First Piano Concerto, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto, and Schumann's Piano Concerto, all in robust music, were superbly performed. The orchestra, under the baton of Sir Charles Groves, brought flaming resonance to his Fanny's Cello Concerto on a theme of Gershwin's, without loss of textural clarity, no small achievement in such an intricately argued score. With Eli Goren, Bella Dekany and Alan Dalziel revealing in their high-flying rhetoric, the performance brought home to us the music's structural stability.

The second half began with the first of the season's four tributes to Sir Michael Tippett, who was 70 recently. The strings of the BBC Symphony Orchestra under Sir Charles Groves brought flaming resonance to his Fanny's Cello Concerto on a theme of Gershwin's, without loss of textural clarity, no small achievement in such an intricately argued score. With Eli Goren, Bella Dekany and Alan Dalziel revealing in their high-flying rhetoric, the performance brought home to us the music's structural stability.

## New British musical

Happy as a Sandbag, a new British musical by Lesley Collier and Wayne Eagling, who danced Juliet and Romeo on Saturday at the last matinee of the Royal Ballet's season, Collier has added Aurora, Clara and Giselle to her roles and has deepened her interpretations of the ballerina parts she previously played.

## CINEMAS

**SCENE 4**, Lido, 50 (Warwick St., 430-4400). This time the film is a musical, *The Magic Flute*, directed by William Wyler. It is a musical, *The Magic Flute*, directed by William Wyler. It is a musical, *The Magic Flute*, directed by William Wyler.

## EXHIBITIONS

**PHOTOGRAPHIC AND 3-DIMENSIONAL EXHIBITION**, Canada House Gallery, 111 Regent St., London, W1. 10.00-5.00. Monday to Friday 10.00 to 5.00. Saturday 10.00 to 5.00. Sunday 10.00 to 5.00.

## ART EXHIBITIONS

**NEW GALLERY**, 43 Old Bond St., London, W1. 10.00-5.00. Monday to Friday 10.00 to 5.00. Saturday 10.00 to 5.00. Sunday 10.00 to 5.00.

## CINEMAS

**ACADEMY**, 137 Old Bond St., London, W1. 10.00-5.00. Monday to Friday 10.00 to 5.00. Saturday 10.00 to 5.00. Sunday 10.00 to 5.00.

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Wayne Eagling and Lesley Collier

Photograph by Anthony Crickmay

## Two dancers on way to stardom?

Romeo and Juliet  
Covent Garden

## John Percival

It has been a good year for Lesley Collier and Wayne Eagling, who danced Juliet and Romeo on Saturday at the last matinee of the Royal Ballet's season. Collier has added Aurora, Clara and Giselle to her roles and has deepened her interpretations of the ballerina parts she previously played.

Eagling has had fewer opportunities to shine, but he has made the most of every role, however small. He has consistently out-danced his rivals and thoroughly earned his promotion to principal dancing next season.

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**SCENE 4**, Lido, 50 (Warwick St., 430-4400). This time the film is a musical, *The Magic Flute*, directed by William Wyler. It is a musical, *The Magic Flute*, directed by William Wyler.

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## Still a treat to see

Wheeltappers and Shunters Social Club  
Granada

## Leonard Buckley

It was sweltering when we arrived at the club on Saturday and the place was already full. There, however, as usual, was club secretary Bernard Manning, genial and lacy, and a few other regulars. The club was a treat to see, a place where the club members, the wheeltappers, may not always be the kind who work for what they get and expect their performers to do the same.

## Carmen

## Coliseum

## Alan Blyth

The third act of *Carmen*, although it was some of the most potent music, can be a bit of a let-down. A combination of Noel Davies's acute conducting, Gillian Knight's *Carmen*, which here took on a proper tragic intensity, and Valerie Masterman's superb vocal, much applauded, of Micaela's aria gave the act the impetus it so often lacks. Here, too, Jon Andrews as Jose had earlier sounded vocally out of sorts, came into his own. Mr Andrews has the upper register and a vocal force to be our leading Othello and Desdemona. Unfortunately the vocal journey he takes to get to the top is usually laden with pitfalls of pitch and shilling that are not easy on the ear.

## National Youth

## Orchestra

## Albert Hall/Radio 3

## Max Harrison

Kodaly's *Peacock Variations*, using a folk melody he also employed in other compositions, is a rather too leisurely piece, but possesses a lyricism in which the young players of the National Youth Orchestra responded well on Saturday night. One has ceased to be surprised at the very high standards reached by this ensemble, and the Variations, though not overtly a display vehicle, provided good opportunities for individual members of the brass and woodwind sections. These latter departments, in fact, usually play the outstanding features of the orchestra, the strings rarely attaining a comparable richness, despite their greater numbers.

## Travesties to move to

## the Albery

The Royal Shakespeare Company's production of Tom Stoppard's award-winning comedy *Travesties* is to have a third run in London before it leaves for New York's Broadway in October. *Travesties*, recently sold out at the Aldwych, is to transfer to the Albery Theatre on August 13, for an eight-week season.

## The easy English

## existence

## London was Yesterday

## By Janet Flanner

1934-1939 edited by Irving Druhan.  
 (Michael Joseph, £4.50)

"To anyone lucky enough not to be able to read, London would seem to be much the same as usual," Miss Flanner's opening sentence in one of her New Yorker dispatches in 1939, as war was approaching, is a good example of her style: dry, ironic, economical. "Unfortunately," she writes on another day, "history here has been taking things easy since the Munich Accord." Munich had left people feeling lucky. "Now they don't even feel very lucky. What the public seeks is action, not talk, and it isn't getting much of either."

Although Miss Flanner has lived more in France than in Britain, and has written more about France, there is no shyness or hesitance in her running comments which she made from London during the abdication crisis, the coronation of King George VI, and the twists and turns of Chamberlain's policy before the war. Collected together, these dispatches provide a couple of hours' good, light reading, helped along by many large and admirably chosen photographs.

What is chiefly surprising about them is to find how much the New Yorker readers could absorb about the royal family, court etiquette, the Lon-

Dukes and Lees whose music was still a David Copperfield, a Freddie Starr imitation. But he had some original flashes of wit to add to this. The record had his own beating time to a medley of hits. He was in it as he used to be in it, a yellow ribbon to star in. Mr Manning, too, had some such as "You made me love you" and to toss a well-timed joke or two through the haze of the jam-packed throng. So what with him and Colin Crompton, nicely sardonic as our chairman, we knew that it would be a night to ring the bell.

This is not like entertainment of the sort we are all too often given where plastic personalities of little talent but large self-assurance assume that their mere appearance merits our instant applause. The audience here are the kind who work for what they get and expect their performers to do the same.

The programme this time lacked anything comparable with the exuberant energy of the first two acts, which were more of a treat to see. The third act, which was more of a let-down, was a bit of a disappointment. A combination of Noel Davies's acute conducting, Gillian Knight's *Carmen*, which here took on a proper tragic intensity, and Valerie Masterman's superb vocal, much applauded, of Micaela's aria gave the act the impetus it so often lacks.

One of Strider's main virtues has been in showing that experiment need not be off-puttingly remote from everyday life. The group is breaking up now and its founder Richard Alston will spend at least a year in New York at Merce Cunningham's studio. I hope we can then welcome him back to refresh our dance world again with novel ideas and an inquiring mind.

and there of Schikaneder's text and stage effects to extend it. *The Magic Flute*, looked at coolly, may sometimes seem a curious hotch-potch of rite, childish humour and pseudo-rationalism mumbo-jumbo, but only the subtlety of the music, like this, profuse in detail but absolutely simple in spirit, catches something in the essence of the work and creates from its symmetries a universal eloquence.

The production by Anthony Beech is a fairly elaborate one, depending a good deal on decorative and lighting effects; and now that those effects actually work (even if too often accompanied by noises off) we can also see that it is an imaginative and felicitous one. The music, too, is superb, and on the whole simple, and steeped in Masonic and ancient Egyptian symbolism (don'tless for the better informed on the latter then were Schikaneder and Mozart); they hit the mark both in the picturesque and the ritual side of the work. And Mr Beech holds a balance no less finely: solemn but unpretentious ceremonial on the one hand, earthy humour on the other, with a sense of legitimate supplementation here.

## New London Ballet

## Sadler's Wells

## John Percival

One can see what drew Ashley Killer to make a ballet from Washington Square. Henry James's novel has already been successfully adapted into play, but the nature of its heroine's emotions can be more feelingly expressed in dancing than in acting. How much more vividly a look or gesture can suggest her stifled thoughts, especially when you have Galina Samsova to play Catherine.

Her performance is something to see. The variety of moods she brings into a few spaces of time is extraordinary. She can make the most gauche action seem perfectly natural, compulsively adapted into play, both the picture and the story. She is a dancer of the highest order, and her performance is something to see. The variety of moods she brings into a few spaces of time is extraordinary. She can make the most gauche action seem perfectly natural, compulsively adapted into play, both the picture and the story. She is a dancer of the highest order, and her performance is something to see.

Some of the notices on this page are reprinted from Saturday's later editions.























# In Fleet Street, telling employees the unpalatable truth is paying off for the future

To reassert that *The Observer's* problems are the problems of all national newspapers is to coin a cliché. But, since it is true, there is also the silver lining cliché to reassure the Street, for since the frank forecast of future losses unless manning could be reduced, there has been exceptionally little industrial trouble at the mill where *The Observer* is printed and produced. If haltingly at times, it has, nevertheless, appeared at most points of sale.

At the same time, it does look as if a call for volunteer redundancies has not fallen on deaf ears. There is, at this stage, still more hope than could have been envisaged even a year ago. There is some scepticism over the projected *Observer* loss (£25,000 in 1975) but there is at least continuing dialogue. It bodes well—or fairly well—for the plans of most newspaper groups to update production areas. The plans have long lain dormant—less because of stemmed cash flow than for fear of union reprisals. A paper that is absent for too long from a fickle public is bound to lose more than mere money. It loses a future.

There are now signs that some are prepared to face loss of employment in order to keep the industry alive for at least some of their descendants. True, redundancy payments are becoming more generous and sympathetically allotted. Every case is studied, whereas there was once a tendency for financial decisions concerning the remaining years—whether few or many—to be taken in rarefied boardrooms with little regard to the people involved.

One of the industry's more popular ways of softening the redundancy blow is to continue a salary or wage replacement for months, years, or up to pension time according to age. While many prefer it that way, others opt for the lump sum or for a combination of the two. The firing package needs to be geared to the type of employee and his plans for living.

There is fear, caused by increasing unemployment, and fear needs human treatment, not more cruelty. The employers' benefits include the ability to survive through the ebb and flow of a good reputation among potential re-

ruits, existing staff and through the relevant industry and its unions, who become much more cooperative. Managements, too, have lessons to learn from *The Observer's* case. Some had already been learned, such as giving all employees the truth about week-to-week balance sheets, the unpalatable truth. How could workers be expected to cooperate when their eyes and ears told them of millions of pounds of revenue but omitted the millions of pounds of costs?

Could they believe employers who seemed always to be crying wolf? Now, as far as company laws permit, they get the truth and they have come to know the future lies as much in their hands as in those of management. Another lesson for management is that of "quality" control, so long practised in other industries but too often neglected in the newspaper business. The product must be right. Even sensible manning levels and cost-sharing agreements cannot help a product that is not wanted by enough of the people enough of the time. Quality control does not mean that the *Sun* should be turned in to *The Times* or *Daily Telegraph*. It means the product has to be good value, consistently, for its own market sector.

Yet a third lesson, which

most managements have taken to heart in very recent times, is that size of circulation should not be worshipped blindly, but properly respected and nurtured. Looking over the shoulder is too frenetic a daily exercise and results in slowing down the runner, whether he lies at the front or towards the rear of the competing racers.

*The Observer* lost more than 72,000 copies during the first half of this year as against the same months of 1974. In percentage-terms, that does not compare unfavourably with the losses of *The Sunday Times* (subject to repeated stoppages and somewhat victimized in that respect). Sales stood up well to the 2p increase in 12p in early February and the decline did not begin until May. But its market rivals—*The Sunday Times* and *Sunday Telegraph*—are stronger. Number one, *The Sunday Times* (1.39 million at 15p) is so strong that the second place needs careful guarding. *The Sunday Telegraph* outpaced *The Observer* in June and that is the danger signal. *The Observer* should have been more wary. Troubles are not all due to overmanning, nor has the danger erupted suddenly. The need for a 30 per cent cut has been there for years, rapidly built up again in the early sixties, following an aborted

reduction programme that had, in turn, followed yet another of those reports by a royal commission on the press, as preempted by events as much as the next one will be.

The commission is failing, as earlier bodies did, to get its evidence from many of the right sources. The middle-day-to-day executives or the men on the floor are often closer to the problems than trade unionists or group heads, yet information is too often gained from those at one remove who are either echoing the thoughts of others or looking for ideals where compromises are the only solutions. Or just grinding axes? A powerless report cannot help. Only managements, workers and cooperation can do that.

*The Observer* has other special problems. It has to honour an agreement to convert the building it once shared with *Times Newspapers* so that machinery is separately housed from office staffs. When *The Observer* bought the building, by renouncing a fifth of the equity to Lazard's, who loaned the money, it was receiving enough "rent" to get change after paying interest on the loan. Now, stuck with trebled conversion costs that have not yet stopped escalating, and with rising interest rates, something must be done. Even that must be underestimated for,

without another group as ally, it is on a weak negotiating platform and is bound to discover that going it alone on production, printing and running the building is going to be more expensive since some staff costs, once shared, are now wholly payable by *The Observer*.

Overmanning is going to be difficult to cut, since *The Observer* is rather less overmanned than other newspapers. It is unfortunate that it did not cry "halt" sooner and with more aggression. It may also be a pity that some cooperative deal could not be worked out with *The Guardian*, now strapped with the cost of going it alone on old-fashioned equipment.

It is an even greater pity that a two-year-old project for a multi-production centre should have been killed by inward rather than forward thinking. Ironically, the conversations and planning sessions were for long *Fleet Street's* best-kept secret and those who knew of the scheme kept silent because there seemed to be such a future in it.

One centre was talked of for at least all the serious daily and Sunday newspapers, although there is no reason why tabloids and broadsheets cannot be produced on the same plant—a tabloid is but a broadsheet with an extra cut

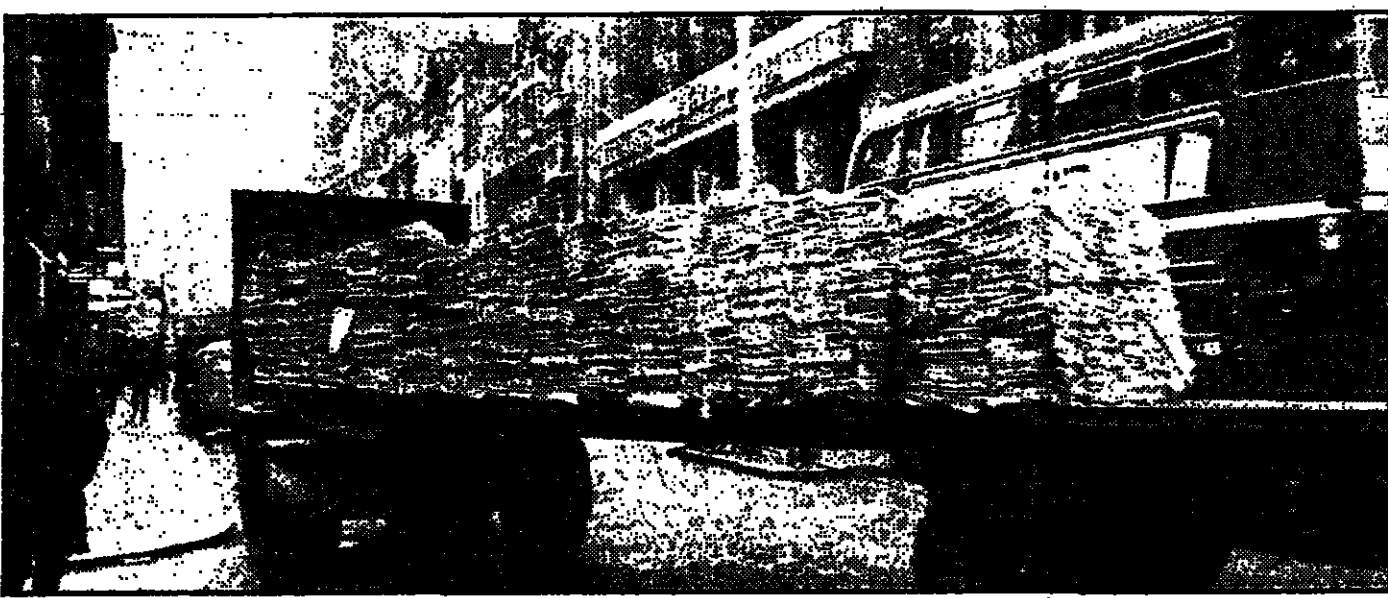
between pages and a different machine setting for folding the final publication. The centre would embody all the revolutions of computer typesetting, photo-composing, and handling. Each paper would remain independent, with different administrations and policies plus separated journalists, advertising, accounting and other staff.

At first excitement was intense and the economics of the proposition would have been such as to ensure the lives of all. Gradually, one by one, the propellers began to wobble. Those who explored all cash-raising possibilities from remortgaging their buildings to rights issues began to slow down and the dream ended in the spring. Since then, the *Financial Times* has announced plans to go it alone, acting as lightning conductor of union reaction before inevitable announcements by former potential partners. Cash and cost savings were not the only involvement. Power could have been built up. Part of *Fleet Street's* trouble is that management or proprietorial power is fragmented, leaving union power hard to fight. It is said, too, that one of the main reasons for backing out seems to have been fear that one dominant newspaper group would arise and carry off the weaker brethren in its phoenix claws.

Such fear is the fear of weakness, the unknown. Can it be true that in this day and age one can feel safer rising towards extinction than sharing survival as well as costs? It is true. I remember 15 years ago a merchant banker who tried to spawn a scheme in the domestic appliances industry since washing machine and refrigerator components are as alike as newspapers.

He documented the advantages and forecasts realistically. He enjoyed the initial excitement then watched the enthusiasm being undermined. He failed. He is different from originators of a similar news-papers plan in one respect. He has been able to watch the results of non-cooperation. One of the prospective participants died an insolvent death. Four others are merged into one giant, one dead, gamely, alive only in brand name.

Sheila Black



## The question of consent and the millions who were not asked

Consensus, consent, widespread agreement, national unity—the search goes on. And so it must. No policy is worth tuppence without supporters and no policy against inflation with all its inevitable unfairness, blatant inequity, dislocation of lives, upsetting of plans, frustrating of hopes, has a dog's chance unless it can mobilize and command the higher loyalty of all parts of the community.

But all parts means all parts. The TUC and the CBI are not the nation as a whole, although they are certainly an important part of it. The TUC General Council is an august body with wise and experienced leaders upon it. But it cannot claim to speak for more than two-fifths of the work people of this country. Those trade unionists who share Mr. Eric Heffer's view that the TUC is "up the wall" (Hansard Col. 872, July 24)—would query even that. But leaving brotherly differences aside, the TUC represents about 10 million workers.

Yes, there are another 14 million people who are also work people, who also get up and go to work each day, who also negotiate their pay, or who negotiate costs from which their pay is the residual. More than 14 million of these are organized in independent unions and staff associations. Many more again are in professional organizations, institutes and independent associations and societies. Tens of thousands more are organizing as the new army of the self-employed. What about their consent? Which paragraph did they draft in the White Paper *The Attack on Inflation*?

Whether the CBI's consent was or was not secured for the Government's new package, has been a matter of debate these last few days. What is the consent of the greater part of the private

sector—the thousand upon thousand of smaller firms and enterprises which produce 40 per cent of our domestic output, and the countless organizations and associations into which they fall—can by no stretch of the imagination, no conceivable interpretation of the word, be said to have been secured.

So whatever else *The Attack on Inflation* may be, it is its intrinsic virtues as a policy, it is not based on consent in any national sense. The support of the TUC and the CBI, with reservations, it may have. The Bank of England, the Treasury, and the Cabinet Office may be right in their view behind it. The broad approval of metropolitan opinion may have been gained.

But that is something so utterly different from the ending of a substantial consent of the British people that one cannot believe experienced politicians would ever dream of equating the two.

Of course there is the high cost of the opinion polls to which to appeal. But if the message from that quarter means anything, it is certainly not a new one. Everyone, we learn—just as past governments learned—is universally in favour of prices and incomes policies in general. Of course, they are. And everyone, we learn shortly—as if we had forgotten—is unreservedly against them as they apply in particular cases.

The generalities are the easy bit. The details—well who cares about details? If the House of Commons is grumpy about pushing through a mass of value legislation which fails to connect in any way with everyday working life, well, silly old House of Commons. They always were a bit remote. Those MPs, insisting on defining what is an offence before legislating that people will be fined for committing it, query-

ing how people will know in Lancashire or Somerset, or Lancashire or London, or what the civil servants in St James's Square regard as permissible wage increases.

Away with all this fussy detail. Rising wages cause inflation. Haven't the TUC and the CBI all agreed as much? Don't the Treasury and the Bank think so too? So a policy must be produced. There, it is done—typed, printed, ready for distribution. That is dynamic leadership for you, so let us have no more quibbling.

One does not need to be a fanatical monetarist or an embittered populist to have a feeling that there is something badly wrong with this "magic circle" style of policy-making and the kind of policy which emerges from it. It is certainly not policy-making based on widespread consent. It could, at a pinch, be described as a policy based on the consent of professional opinion and the economic establishment generally. Certainly there has not been a public square of doubt from which the Bank of England and the new department of banking opinion thinks the emphasis a little odd and points in favour of prices and incomes policies in general. Of course, they are. And everyone, we learn shortly—as if we had forgotten—is unreservedly against them as they apply in particular cases.

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## Lord Chalfont

## How Israel fits into the jigsaw of Soviet power

This is the second of three articles written following a series of conversations with Major General Jan Sejna, who escaped from Czechoslovakia to the West in 1968, during the early days of the Dubcek regime. He was suspected of attempting in collaboration with Mr. Dubcek's predecessor, the Stalinist Antonin Novotny, to use the army for political purposes, and a warrant for his arrest had been issued at the time of his defection. As First Secretary of the Communist Party in the Czechoslovak Ministry of Defence, General Sejna was closely involved in Warsaw Pact strategic planning.

The Third World War, according to Alexander Solzhenitsyn, has already taken place, and it has ended in defeat for the West. It is an apocalyptic view, but its central proposition is becoming difficult to resist, especially in the light of last week's Brezhnev benefit in Helsinki.

It is especially interesting to examine one of Mr. Solzhenitsyn's more esoteric assertions, that the Soviet Union is in danger of joining the long list of countries which have lost their freedom as a result of the aggressive foreign policies of the Soviet Union. This may seem surprising to those who have so far failed to understand the strategic significance of what is going on in the Middle East. In spite of some predictable last minute intransigence on both sides the odds are still slightly in favour of an interim agreement between Israel and Egypt. This, however, cannot be more than a hesitant first step, and sooner or later everyone concerned will have to face the formidable task of clarifying the conditions for a comprehensive settlement and a lasting peace. Whether this can ever be achieved depends upon a number of factors, of which almost certainly the most important is the Middle East policy of the Soviet Union.

Contemporary Soviet strategy in the Middle East has its roots in the West's disastrous Suez adventure of 1956. It became clear at that time that power and influence in the area was in steep decline, and that a way was being opened through which it would be possible to attack the crumbling southern flank of NATO. Furthermore, if the Soviet Union could exploit the failure of western policy and bring the Middle East under its own domination, the Warsaw Pact would exercise strategic control over the oil upon which the West's industrial and military power was heavily dependent.

The rapid growth of Arab nationalism provided a convenient instrument for manipulation by the Russians. First they concentrated their efforts on the Syrian Communist Party, in order to construct a firm platform for further intelligence operations in the Middle East, while trying to weld the various left-wing splinter groups in Egypt into a single effective organization. It was not, however, until 1965 that a systematic strategic plan for the Middle East was drawn up and in 1966 the Soviet Union incorporated into the Warsaw Pact's Long Term Strategic Plan.

The basic idea was to exploit left-wing movements in Syria, Algeria and Iraq in order to subvert national bourgeois regimes in the Middle East, and to use the resulting chaos to infiltrate deeply into Egypt. In the wake of an intensified programme of military aid, they took over from the Czech intelligence service, which had already comprehensively penetrated the Egyptian War College, and had recruited valuable agents in the Civil Service and the armed forces. They also began to take a more direct interest in the Palestine liberation organizations, and arranged for some of their more promising members to go to North Korea for training in guerrilla warfare.

Behind all this tactical exploitation lay a clear strategic aim. It was to achieve, by the middle of the 1980s, a firm communist base in the Middle East through the nationalization of oil and the rise of national communist parties. The central factor in the whole strategy was not surprisingly oil—a very important economic weapon against imperialism. The Soviet calculation was that by the late 1970s the West would have begun to disintegrate socially and politically, at the same time international communism would have gained such a foothold in the Middle East that the oil weapon could be used to bring about the final collapse of capitalism.

Even for the Soviet Union everything does not always go exactly according to plan. President Sadat of Egypt has proved to be less malleable than his predecessor and has refused to become a Soviet puppet in exchange for military equipment and advice. The oil-producing countries (notably those like Saudi Arabia, Iran and Kuwait, who might have been expected to understand the long-term implications of playing the Russian game) have taken the oil weapon into their own hands a few years before the Russians planned to use it. Yet in the wider context Soviet policies in the Middle East continue to prosper and although a few minor tactical adjustments may have been necessary there is no evidence to suggest that the long-term aim of domination of the area by the middle of the 1980s has substantially changed.

Challenged military equipment continues to pour into the Arab countries, and there is little doubt that it is accompanied by conditions of the sort which were original in Nasser's elimination of western influences and closer integration with the Soviet Union in foreign policy and intelligence operations. It is important that the West should realize that the Middle East is still an area of vital strategic importance, and that Israel is the key to its future. The Soviet Union believes that it can use the present commitment of the United States to deterrence as a means of undermining western influence in the Arab world. The calculation is that by the end of the 1970s American support for Israel will have been substantially reduced, and that at that time a combination of Arab military strength and the economic cost to Israel of maintaining a high state of military readiness will force the Israelis to come to terms with the Arab world—terms which will be to a large extent dictated by the Soviet Union. At this stage the Russians believe that, as Marshal Gheorghiu said in 1963, "within 15 years the Israelis will be happy if we just permit them to live".

The next few years in the Middle East will be years of crisis for the West as well as for the Arabs and the Israelis. The issue is not just a simple local confrontation; it concerns the wider conflict which, in spite of all the brave words about detente, is the heart of international politics. There is little doubt that both President Sadat and the government of Israel genuinely want, and need, peace; but it does not depend entirely upon them. At a secret conference in Prague in 1967, attended by the leaders of the Warsaw Pact Mr. Brezhnev said:

"If we dominate the Middle East we will have outflanked Turkey and Greece. Once we have established our influence in Turkey and secured the Russian withdrawal from Iran, the door will be open for progressive forces to blossom in the eastern Mediterranean and our strategic domination of Europe will be under way. This in turn will increase our influence in Africa."

It is, of course, possible to believe that all this has been changed by the spirit of conciliation and goodwill which brought all those high-powered gentlemen to Helsinki last week, but it is also possible to suggest that a little healthy scepticism might be in order.

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## The Times Diary

### Knees and a whiff of Empire

Moving from one Scandinavian jamboree to another, Alan Hamilton left the Helsinki summit last week and went to Lillehammer, in Norway, where a still more significant international get-together is under way. He reports:

Thousands of youths wearing paramilitary uniforms, many carrying knives and axes, descended on a peaceful Norwegian holiday resort last week and lit fires over a wide area of farmland. They were 17,000 Scouts from 96 countries and they had arrived for their fourteenth World Jamboree.

This massive get-together of world scouting occurs every four years, and this time Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and Iceland joined forces to act as hosts. The 4,000 square-metre camp has been set up outside Lillehammer, 120 miles north of Oslo, in a beautiful wooded valley.

Jamboree veterans are full of praise for the organization of "Nordjamb 75". Although run

with Nordic efficiency, the old hands feel they are back to the basics of scouting after the rather too slick and over-organized 1971 jamboree in Japan, which was also disrupted by an ill-timed typhoon.

The organization is discreet but massive. More obvious signs include an eight-page daily newspaper in English and French, and a computer, which is supposed to work out each individual camper's daily programme, but which has been having digestive troubles through Scouts folding and crushing their punch cards.

This may explain why several youngsters who asked to go on hill walks for beginners found themselves taking part in gruelling 24-hour hikes through the mountains. The only casualties camp has seen so far have been a few sprained ankles.

The huge camp site is divided into 10 self-contained sub-camps, each with its own daily programme. Within the sub-camps national contingents are broken

down into groups of about 30 and scattered throughout the site, each building their own little corral and flying their national flag. Rules say that no flagpole shall be more than three metres high, but the normally diffident British had the Union Jack illegally prominent.

The British contingent is 1,627 strong, the second largest at Nordjamb, and is led by Lord Baden-Powell, grandson of the man who invented the whole thing. The boys are aged between 14 and 18, and have to face a stiff selection process before they win a place. Then they have to find £160 per head, most of which is raised by jumble sales, waste paper collections, and the like. They have so much equipment that they were preceded by two large container lorries full of tents, cooking gear, and all the other paraphernalia of camping.

### Turnip crisis

Undoubtedly one of the hits of the show has been the British scout band, specially formed for the occasion and led by Roy Newell, a printer from Coventry who has spent much of the past 18 months trying to get the members together from all over England for rehearsals. Nowell even wrote a march

called "Nordjamb", which the band, on its way to Lillehammer, played for the citizens of Oslo on a march through the city to meet the Lord Mayor. The boys are aged between 14 and 18, and have to face a stiff selection process before they win a place. Then they have to find £160 per head, most of which is raised by jumble sales, waste paper collections, and the like. They have so much equipment that they were preceded by two large container lorries full of tents, cooking gear, and all the other paraphernalia of camping.

But they have a rival. Naturally, the three Scottish troops present have managed to get together a small pipe band, which is in demand for entertainments. The Scots were also planning an international bagpipe party, but there was some difficulty about finding turnips. "We need our turnips to the cattle here", they were told.

### Knee shock

One thing which has gone out of fashion among British scouts is knees. Since our Scouts abandoned the Baden-Powell hush hat and shorts some years ago in favour of normal long trousers, British scouting knees have been covered up. Some regret this—I met a sub-editor from *The Times* sneaking wearing shorts and knees are still much in favour elsewhere. A quick survey indicated that the South Koreans had the noblest knees, beating the

Japanese by a short kneecap. By far the handsomest knees belong to the Norwegians. At Nordjamb there are more American knees than any other nation—424 belonging to the US contingent. The number of Americans at these events has been causing concern to the world scout movement for some time.

In Japan the Americans swamped the jamboree with a contingent of more than 8,000 scouts. After this experience the Nordjamb organizers introduced a rule that no one country should have more than 10 per cent of the total, but the Americans are still exceeding their quota. Officials admit that as the US has over one third of all the Scouts in the world, and they pour so much money into the movement, the rule cannot be enforced too strictly.

Such is the Americans' style that they have arrived at Lillehammer entirely equipped with brand-new tents, which will sell off at about £10 each—a bargain—before they go home. But other contingents, though smaller, have style too. The Gabonese arrived in their President's private jet, but they had to come a day early because he needed it back to go to Kampala. Camp officials also admit

that they are more international than even the United Nations. There is a Southern Rhodesian (all white) contingent and a mixed-race South African one. At home the South Africans are forced to have a separate scout movement for each race, but they come to jamborees as a single unit and seem to enjoy themselves.

Today's sign is open to several interpretations. It was photographed near Arzach in Scotland by C. A. Harley Nott of Worcester.

that the Gabonese have pulled off a brilliant coup in having some girls in their contingent. The camp proper is supposed to be strictly boys only, but one of the headquarters staff said he had found it difficult to tell the difference.

In fact there are large numbers of women about. Several Nordic countries, as one would expect from socially advanced nations, have combined scout and guide movements, and a 1,500-strong contingent of both sexes from the host countries is acting as a camp service corps. But they are well away from the camp proper in a compound of their own. The Scouts like to claim

that they are more international than even the United Nations. There is a Southern Rhodesian (all white) contingent and a mixed-race South African one. At home the South Africans are forced to have a separate scout movement for each race, but they come to jamborees as a single unit and seem to enjoy themselves.

Another unlikely but seemingly harmonious combination is Israeli and Egyptian scouts. The Syrian, scouts together on the same patrol, thrown together at random by the non-political computer.

The highlight of the jamboree is the hike, undertaken by over 8,000 boys in a time split up into patrols of eight, each patrol with eight different nationalities and led by a Scandinavian. So empty is the Norwegian countryside that, even with 1,000 parties out at one time, they rarely even meet each other. The hike lasts for 24 hours.

Nordjamb also has some innovations in instructional activities, the most popular of which is the radio station. The station has been busy jacking up a number of "join in jamborees" running concurrently in various countries, in-

cluding one at Gilwell Park in Essex, for Scouts who cannot go to the real thing. If Nordjamb goes on a hike the world is transmitted, and the mini-jamborees go on a hike. Nordjamb has a tomato soup for lunch; scouts throughout the world have tomato soup.

Meanwhile, across the road, an altogether more civilized atmosphere pervades the official quarters. Each nation has a headquarters tent where contented leaders live, work and entertain each other. When I looked in on Saturday the British staff was entertaining a mixed international group of leaders to tea from delicate Staffordshire pottery, and digestive biscuits. Sitting among men in khaki shirts, sipping Brooke Bood under canvas and swatting the occasional fly, has a definite whiff of Empire about it.

Nordjamb 75 even has its own currency, printed on the premises in limitless quantities. Scouts have to spend the Norwegian-style one-kroner notes—which have an exchange value of each other's country's, the idea being to keep the money in circulation. It should provide excellent training in inflation.

PHS





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## THE QUEEN MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY

Queen Mother, who celebrates her seventy-fifth birthday today, was born just before the end of the reign of Queen Victoria. Her life does therefore reflect the whole development of modern British monarchy to which she has herself contributed so much. Perhaps the most remarkable contrast is that between the disappearance of monarchies during her lifetime and the survival and vitality of British monarchy.

The institution which has survived is the creation of three generations and of both the monarch and consort of each generation. It was King George and Queen Mary who first established the monarchy as an institution still is. Queen Victoria's monarch had been an example of good family life. Queen Victoria had in her childhood been withdrawn, reticent and altogether imperial. There is an unaffected modesty about the new monarchy which endeared it to the British

people. It is very grand in its ceremonial but known to be very straightforward in its personal attitudes.

The grand ceremonial, which the Queen Mother in her time has done so well, is necessary. The function of royalty is to provide a symbolic focus for the deep and emotional feelings of loyalty, unity and confidence which both preserve and animate the nation. To represent Britain, or the other Commonwealth nations, and to be the ultimate sovereign, is a very important thing. Yet modern citizens want this important work to be undertaken in a spirit of humility and not in a spirit of self glorification. The Queen Mother has displayed the virtues of ordinary life in an extraordinary life.

To this modest tradition the Queen Mother has fully belonged but she has also added something to it. She made the British monarchy much more easy and natural, much more good natured and less severe than it

was in the previous generation. She supported King George VI through the very hard labours of his very successful reign, particularly during the war, and made the public understand and warm to the shy sense of duty on which his life was based.

The business of being a Royal Family, as Prince Philip so clearly knows, has always been an exacting and difficult profession. Brilliance is usually a drawback and private virtue is not enough. The successful balance between the private and the public roles, based as it has been on three generations of honourable conduct, has strengthened the British monarchy as an institution to the great advantage of the country. And not the least of the Queen Mother's contributions is to have been the mother of a Queen who has shown that steady and modest mastery of difficult times which is both a British quality and a quality the British most admire.

## HOW WILL EDUCATION SPENDING BE CUT?

penditure on education amounts for well over half the total expenditure of local government. So, in any serious and sustained attempt by the Government to restrain the perennial increases in the share of national resources used by local authorities, education will have to accept a major share of the inevitable cuts. Mr. Mulley's tentative claim last month that after the cuts announced in Budget in April educational expenditure would enjoy a real wage of two per cent had a low ring.

Although local education authorities would have to make substantial economies to keep in spending within this two per cent limit, few among those eminent in education expect they will be let off so easily. If total local government expenditure is kept to an increase of only 1.5 per cent in real terms, such preferential treatment for the largest local authority services could not be at all, or might even have a contract. Such discrimination

in favour of education, which would lead to important dislocations in other services, is neither likely nor particularly desirable.

Achieving the necessary economies in educational expenditure will not be painless. First, the strength of public sentiment in favour of continuing advance in education is considerable. Secondly, education is labour intensive like many local government services. As teachers require a long professional training, any proposal to make teachers redundant would involve the waste of the resources devoted to their training. Thirdly, current expenditure on education must be coordinated with the substantial capital expenditure on new and improved schools and colleges.

Nevertheless at present education possesses an overwhelming attraction for a government desperately needing to restrain the apparently inexorable growth of local authority expenditure. The number of school-age children has declined and will continue to decline for several years. So substantial economies can be achieved in primary and second-

ary education without too much damage to the standard of the service. Local authorities have been able to reduce considerably the number of new teachers they had expected to employ.

The Government has been able to announce the closure of some colleges of education and the amalgamation of others in more viable institutions of higher education. They may well also have to reexamine their commitment to the expansion of nursery education, however painful that reexamination may be. They should certainly act decisively and even ruthlessly to prevent colleges other than the universities and polytechnics extending their involvement in higher education. Here there is a strong case for greater discrimination in the allocation of resources than appears to be the case at present.

Helped by the declining school population, the education service through good housekeeping and a rigorous reassessment of priorities should be able to contribute to the need for economy in local government expenditure without sacrificing its present standards.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF CABINDA

A declaration by the local liberation movement (FLEC) of Cabinda's independence from Angola and Portugal is an indication both of Angola's integration and of increasing involvement by outside powers in its spreading civil war. In the Russian-armed, Russian-backed MPLA led by Dr Agostinho Neto seized most of the all enclave some weeks ago in a battle with FLEC and LA which wrecked the town and endangered the oil installations. But FLEC is backed, so not with arms, by Zaire, and Gabon.

Cabinda, separated by historical accidents from the mass of Angola by the estuary of the Congo and a Zaire corridor to the sea, has an income from oil and royalties (all from the IF Oil Company's concession) of \$450 million a year. This is far the largest earner of foreign exchange by Angola, and even of coffee. Independ-

ence would put its 80,000 residents in the oil shakedown class. To hold it and milk it is strategically vital to MPLA, if, as seems increasingly likely, Dr Neto is determined that his party shall be the only one to inherit Angola from Portugal, however long the costly war goes on. At the moment his forces are doing well. The rival FNLA forces, led by Mr Roberto from Zaire, have failed to invest Luanda and are losing ground even in their homeland, the Uige province. Once FNLA is defeated and discredited, Dr Neto could perhaps absorb the third party, led by Mr Savimbi.

But President Mobutu has invested heavily in FNLA, which is the party of the relatively small but tenacious Bakongo tribe that straddles the Angola-Zaire frontier. He has the diverse support of China and the United States. He will soon have to decide if he is going to strike back at the MPLA and Russian influence.

Cabinda has here the makings of another Katanga, though Zaire would also have to put teeth and backbone into the Bakongo forces, before Dr Neto's success becomes unstoppable.

But MPLA would then claim to stand for Angolan territorial integrity in accordance with OAU principles. It now controls the coast from Cabinda to Lobito, which gives its Russian backers (and the Armed Forces Movement, if it abandons neutrality) advantageous lines of communication.

The Marxist African nationalist parties have thus not only got a grip on the vitals of Angola but also control the newly independent states of San Tomé and Príncipe, and the Cape Verde Islands, soon to be merged with Guinea-Bissau. This is as promising an outlook for the Russian navy as it must be depressing for NATO, and embarrassing to the West's dependence on South African facilities.

Labour Government will not stand up to the House of Lords and carry out conference commitments. Mrs. Lena Jeger, the member of the executive who is likely to reply to any debate on the subject, is to see that her colleagues put pressure on Mr Crossland.

Mrs Jeger was not content with that. Last Wednesday she had a motion before a special meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party in relation to the rejection of all four Lords' amendments, and Mr Crossland made known beforehand that the PLP vote would mandate him in the Commons tonight. The unanimity of many Labour MPs about an amnesty for councillors who flouted the law in full knowledge of their offence and of the penalties showed through: the motion was carried by 77 votes to 56, and Mr Crossland accepted his orders without further demur. There is no doubt that some opponents strongly felt that the retrospective exculpation of members (one is now a member of the Labour executive) put before the rule of law cuts damagingly across the principle by which democratic lawmakers must live. Some other opponents, perhaps, were mainly marking their distaste for the Clay Cross affair and the campaign that exploited it.

It is notable that Mrs Jeger herself, as the effective author of the motion, has gone out of her way to separate the Clay Cross councillors from her general argument, as though she never wants to hear the words Clay Cross mentioned again, partly because that issue is now dead, partly because she can defend the other 400 Labour councillors with more respectability. But in her public statements she does not for a moment renounce the principle that the law, good or bad, must be obeyed until such time as it is repealed or amended, or that the observance of the law of the land is peculiarly binding upon all those who make law and administer it.

For her and other members of the executive is another principle, or rather party interest, that shall be defended as paramount. She argued it in the meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and she has argued it elsewhere. It is this: that non-elective peers have

no right, or should be permitted no claim, to sit in judgment on elective local councillors. Though a declared bicameralism, Mrs Jeger insists that the House of Lords is the party's liking. She diminishes the House of Lords, because it has a Conservative or anti-Labour majority, to a mere revising Chamber and denies it the one ultimate constitutional function it has been left with: the right to impose a delay of a few months to give the House of Commons and the people time for reflection and perhaps for second thoughts.

Mr Crossland will tonight, openly or tacitly, commit himself to support of the House of Lords. He has little or nothing to do with the constitution; it has a great deal to do with party politics. Labour's party managers feel that they cannot allow 400 of their councillors either to be disqualified from public life or to pay surcharges that are manifestly beyond their ability to pay. Some of the law-breaking councillors have retired; others are pensioners. Those who continue to serve local government are assumed to have learnt their lesson. Consequently, it is held, an amnesty is the only common sense course.

The argument of expediency is specious and shabby, and will be seen to be. Local councillors, however well meaning, should not be encouraged by Parliament or government to believe that they are elected to be above the law; that they have only to wait for a new government to be indemnified for offences they committed under the old government; or that they can set themselves up as leaders of party principles where the writ of Westminster shall run. If Labour councillors are allowed to believe that, then Conservative, Liberal, and Nationalist councillors may equally pick and choose between the laws they obey or defy.

Tonight, no doubt, the Government will win. The Lords amendments will be thrown out. In September or October the Lords will concur and once again a constitutional collision between the two Houses will be averted. But the damage a Labour Government has done to its reputation will be remembered.

## Case for electoral reform

From Mr G. M. McGregor

Sir, Robert Carr (article, August 1) rightly demonstrates that our present system of single member constituencies has been overtaken by the development of political extremism, of both left and right. Accordingly, in recent years we have oscillated between governments of left and right which have nothing in common except their determination to reverse as much as possible of their predecessor's programme before their minority mandate expires.

However, in his diagnosis, and in his recommendation of an immediate commission of inquiry followed by a Speaker's conference, Mr Carr seems to evade the twin problems of urgency and of political realities.

Only the most optimistic can expect the present pay policy to survive next winter intact. If, as seems more probable, the combination of "special cases" and external inflationary factors maintains or even exacerbates the present rate of inflation, we may well face a general election within the next twelve months. If the system is not changed before then, we shall be forced to choose between a Labour party in which the moderates have been overcome by the extra-parliamentary, trade union muscle of their left wing and a Conservative party which is lurching to the right, partly because its leadership genuinely has not yet learnt that traditional party politics have been overtaken by events and partly to justify sacking those leaders (including Mr Carr) who have painfully learnt that lesson.

It is the lack of bipartisan support for its economic policies that caused the last Conservative government to fall; the miners were merely the occasion but not the cause.

There seems little prospect of a Speaker's conference reporting in time to avert this disastrous choice, and still less likelihood of its recommendations being accepted by those MPs, of both left and right extremes, who would then be most likely to lose their seats.

In these circumstances, it is not possible for Mr Carr to make common cause with moderates of whatever party in order, firstly, to commission an urgent and authoritative review of the alternative electoral systems we could adopt and, secondly, to introduce appropriate legislation, this autumn? Or has the referendum exhausted the political will of those moderates, of all parties, who were still then able to put national interests above party considerations?

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE M. MCGREGOR,  
9 Chalcor Crescent, NW1.

## Shotton steel

From Mr Tom Jones

Sir, As a life long trade unionist and member of the Labour Party, may I urge the Government not to give way to the British Steel proposal to close steelmaking at Shotton.

I had the privilege for very many years to be a union leader in this area and looked after the interests of the majority of the men working at Shotton.

It has an enviable record of labour relations, hardly any strikes in its 80 years of existence, and a working force which is second to none in my experience.

It is an extraordinary situation when the Government, trade unions, the Confederation of British Industries and everyone is crying out for productivity, for no strikes and for good labour relations, that there is a serious proposal to axe the works that has all these attributes.

Yet, British Steel proposes to invest heavily in areas which have had records of strikes and consequently big losses.

The consequences of closing steel in this small community of Shotton would be disastrous not only to the area, but to North Wales as a whole—at the last count this area had the highest unemployment figures in the whole of England, Scotland and Wales.

It is quite unfair the amount of investment that is going to areas and ports nearest the Common Market.

I urge the Government not to treat Shotton as a sacrificial lamb and to see the justice of the points made in the case for Shotton, which will be illustrated in your newspaper (advertisement, July 31).

Yours faithfully,  
TOM JONES, Deputy Chairman,  
Welsh Council,  
7 King George Street,  
Shotton, Deeside, Clwyd.

## Private patronage

From Mr John Cordle, Conservative MP for Bournemouth, East and others

Sir, Members of both Houses of Parliament with representatives of college patronage boards as well as several private patrons and trustees.

The General Synod of the Church of England has voted in favour of a Measure being prepared to abolish all patronage, except only that of the Crown, and to establish a series of ad hoc boards to deal with cases as they arise.

Any parish desiring to continue with the present arrangement must re-assess this wish annually, but once the new proposals had been accepted there could be no reversal.

The meeting felt that the scheme proposed was heavily loaded against private patronage and was obviously intended to abolish it in the foreseeable future.

Because of their serious concern, the present called for a defence group to be formed to gather together those interested in maintaining the present system. The advantages of cross-fertilization from other dioceses, as well as the value of the present mixed system were obviously appreciated.

We have agreed to form such a group and to welcome correspondence at the House of Commons. The matter is urgent and calls for cooperation based on information.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN CORDLE,  
PATRICK CORMACK,  
LAUDERDALE,  
Westminster.

## Achievements of direct grant schools

From Mr A. Spedding

Sir, You rightly draw attention to the "doubts that already exist about comprehensive schools" in your leader (July 31). The latest D.E.S. Statistics (1973, Vol 2), are relevant to this.

The age distribution of leavers in the selective system (ie, grammar and secondary modern combined) is broadly in line with that of the comprehensive system, and the proportion of leavers with specified achievements compare as follows (figures give percentages):

	Selective Comprehensive
5 or more O, no A	14.8
1 or more A	24.5
2 or more A	19.4
University entrance	8.5

The extent of any "creaming" will of course depend on the comprehensive figures, but such creaming would need to be massive and accurate to justify, for example, the university entrance situation where the selective system is almost 55 per cent better (cf only 40 per cent better in 1968).

The achievements of the direct grant schools are impressive—for example almost 60 per cent of their leavers achieved two or more A levels, and 35 per cent went on to university.

Yours faithfully,  
A. SPEDDING,  
Copperkings Lane,  
Amersham, Buckinghamshire,  
July 31.

From the Headmaster of Queen Elizabeth's Hospital

Sir, In a leading article on July 31 you state: "These (direct grant) schools are now faced with the stark choice of becoming independent schools or joining the maintained sector of secondary education as comprehensive schools." For some schools, no choice exists. Mine is by no means the only direct grant

## Editors and press freedom

From Mr C. Gordon Tether

Sir, One of the great disadvantages of the focussing of attention on the "closed shop" threat to future press freedom is that it fosters the impression that all is well at the moment. This is clearly not so.

The Press Council has rightly pointed out that press freedom belongs to each of us—not to proprietors, journalists or print workers. It has also said that the implementation of this principle depends essentially on the right of editors to exercise an unfettered and independent discretion as to what should or should not be published—that discretion to be influenced only by considerations of public interest.

So the role of the editor is crucial. But how far is he able to exercise such discretion when it comes up against what Lord Shawcross, Press Council chairman, has portrayed as a fact of newspaper life: "If someone controls a newspaper," he said a short time back, "it is under the editor he employs, a vehicle of their expression". Press behaviour during the referendum goes a long way to answering this question. On a wide open issue, all the main national newspapers identified themselves unequivocally on one side, and only a few in leader columns. An independent survey has shown that in news coverage, features and even in the correspondence columns, the pro-Market bias was heavy and unmistakable.

The editors' role is crucial in another sense. They have been at pains to stress their concern to protect the freedom of expression of other writers and their staff—not least their own. But freedom from what? From being fettered from within as well as without?

Mr Hetherington, former Guardian editor, has spoken of the good journalists lost to the press "because what they wrote was not published or was doctored or

school in Bristol which has been told that there is no place for it in the maintained sector.

The local education authority has sufficient places of its own in central Bristol, so their reply is entirely logical. The *reductio ad absurdum* amounts to this—an historic blue-coat school with nearly 400 years of service to the less well off boys of Bristol behind it is now being forced by a central socialist government to go independent, raise its fees in consequence and thus move beyond the reach of the very people the socialists have traditionally wanted to help. It is insane.

Yours faithfully,  
H. G. EDWARDS, Headmaster,  
Queen Elizabeth's Hospital,  
Bristol 8.

From Miss Kathleen Gibberd

Sir, With due respect to your leader writer "Keeping the poor out of the best schools", July 31) it is hardly accurate to say that the direct grant schools "must decide quickly" and that "the brevity of the time-table for integration shows that the Government has no intention of allowing time for genuine negotiations about the part they could play within the maintained sector".

Exactly these negotiations have been going on since the Circular on comprehensive education was published in July 1965, and in the beginning they were conducted hopefully on both sides. By 1970 the prospects for agreement except in a few cases seemed slight. See the *Public Schools Commission Second Report*, Chapter Four.

Since the Labour Government was committed, there had to be a date by which every school would say Yes or No. Five months after 10 years seems to me to be typically

Yours faithfully,  
KATHLEEN GIBBERD,  
Southsea,  
nr Lewes, Sussex.

because they were sickened by the instructions they got". My own experience may not be without relevance here.

I have been contributing a wide-ranging and independent column of commentary on public affairs to my paper for many years. However, a year ago I was sent—as part of a drive to alter the status of my work—a notice informing me: "First, like every other journalist, you are subject to the directives of the editor who alone decides what appears or does not appear; secondly, your column should in future confine itself to the general financial and banking scene and, this being a subject on which you have written for many years, the EEC problem".

I have refused to comply on the grounds that the directive both constitutes an affront to meaningful press freedom and would oblige me to downgrade my work by my own hand. However, this—plus the fact that the instruction is capable of "wide" interpretation—costs me the periodic banning of my work. In one recent period, four of the 10 columns I wrote suffered this fate. They dealt with such subjects as International Women's Year and the dilemma facing anti-Marketters.

Mrs Thatcher has spoken of the "responsibility resting on those in the field of communication to see that people are given 'the whole truth'". How can journalists fulfil that duty while our approach to press freedom remains anchored to the out-dated and absurdly simplistic proposition that the handful of editors who captain the "vehicles of expression" of the newspaper proprietors can be properly regarded as the sole arbiters of what the public may read and what should be withheld from it?

Yours sincerely,  
C. GORDON TETHER,  
Bracken House,  
Cannon Street, EC4,  
July 28.

## Tree diseases

From Mr D. R. Johnston

Sir, After reading Mr Guy Woodford's letter of July 26, you may wish to be reassured about the risk of further devastating tree diseases reaching this country from abroad. For many years the Forestry Commission has imposed stringent restrictions on the importation of living trees. These ensure that except under very special circumstances, no tree that is related to this country is allowed into the country.

In addition, following the discovery that the virulent strain of the fungus causing Dutch elm disease reached Britain in the bark of elm logs, new regulations governing imported wood were quickly introduced. Although these regulations were designed partly to prevent the entry of carriers of Dutch elm disease not yet present here, they were aimed mainly at the diseases specifically mentioned by Mr Woodford, namely chestnut blight, Oak wilt and Elm phloem necrosis.

It should also be made clear that Dutch elm disease differs from the other diseases mentioned above, in that it has been present in this country since the 1920s. During this time it has, until the last decade, been characterised by slow decline, being characterised by slow decline after a few years. On the basis of this knowledge and also on the basis of research carried out elsewhere in the world,

there was no reason to suspect that we were dealing with a new situation during the first two or three years of the present epidemic, nor that any new threat could result from the importation of elm logs from North America.

When research was intensified in 1970, rapid progress was made and much information has been influenced work on Dutch elm disease in both Europe and North America has been produced. This research is continuing and recognition of the Commission's work in this field has recently been marked by the award to it of the Iowa Academy of Science's Centennial Medal.

Periodic surveys are being made of the development of the disease, and the complex relationship between the fungus, the beetle carrier and the host tree is being studied in the laboratory and in the field both by the Forestry Commission and by the Natural Environment Research Council. At the same time research on means of protecting valuable specimen trees is continuing, and, in collaboration with the elm breeding programme in the Netherlands, stems from all over the world are being screened for disease resistance.

Yours faithfully,  
D. R. JOHNSTON, Director, Research and Development,  
Forestry Commission,  
Alice Holt Lodge, Wrecclesham,  
Farnham, Surrey.

## Nocturnal bells

From Mr Patrick Napier

Sir, The recent case of Mr Gasson, who suffered a burglar-alarm in Chelsea, prompts me to write regarding this much publicized invasion of one's peace.

My top-floor maisonette in Chelsea's Kings Road lies in the heart of "boutique-land". During my 17 years stay the alarm-bell situation has become impossible to live with. Bells go off during the night approximately one night in every three. Our bedroom overlooks the Kings Road, our children sleep in relative peace at the back.

When I telephone the police they say they can only attempt to contact the keyholder who is frequently uncontactable and who,

even if contacted can merely return to sleep, leaving the bell to ring all night. These nocturnal bells continue for at least 11 hours during which our sleep is totally ruined; many continue throughout the night. My wife and I are becoming nervous wrecks.

Surely an alarm-bell should alert people of a break-in? No one, however, seems to take any notice. A good time, it seems, to do a burglary!

I pay high rates and I am desperate, probably as was Mr Gasson, to find out what I can do to minimize this Chinese torture we have suffered for so long.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICK NAPIER,  
147 Kings Road,  
Chelsea, SW3.

## Exhortation to buy British cars

From Professor N. Kurti, FRs

Sir, I have nothing against British cars. I have nothing against foreign cars. When in November 1973 we decided to buy a new car we approached the question with an open mind. After considering the cost of the car, the cost of running it and convenience of having it serviced and maintained near to where we live, we chose British Leyland's Mini Clubman. We have run it now for 19 months and about 13,000 miles. During this period the following two faults developed:

1. The knob of the clutch control became loose. It did not interfere with the running of the car and it was promptly repaired free of charge since it was within our warranty period.

2. A small fault developed with one of our seat belts. This too was promptly and expeditiously attended to and, although by then we were six months and 5,000 miles outside the warranty period, no charge was made for replacing the entire seat belt assembly.

I do not want to suggest that our experience would have been less satisfactory if we had bought a French, a German, an Italian, a Japanese or a Swedish car, but the fact that we had this experience with a British car is, in my view, of the correspondence in your columns, worth mentioning.

Yours faithfully,  
N. KURTI,  
University of Oxford,  
Department of Physics,  
Clarendon Laboratory,  
Oxford,  
August 1.

From Mr Hans Wolff

Sir, It seems unfortunate that you should have chosen to print, by way of underlining the virtues of foreign cars, the example given by a single reader. No doubt there are many others with similar experiences but anybody with a large circle of Continental friends will have heard many horror stories about Continental cars, like the one I heard from a Dutch friend whose German car needed a new engine after a few hundred miles and who found himself stranded in Germany because only a Dutch dealer could replace the engine under guarantee.

No, Sir, your readers may rest assured that Continental car makers have found no reason for discontinuing their stocks of spare parts, that service garages do not go bankrupt for lack of repair work, and that road patrols have not been abolished for lack of roadside breakdowns.

For my part, I have just exchanged my medium-sized range British car after a trouble-free 114,000 miles for that of a friend with a healthy 40,000 miles on the clock for no other reason than that my friend was emigrating.

Nor is it fair to quote the price advantages of Japanese cars. That the Japanese penetration of European markets is the result of the superiority of their products but to their Far Eastern economies is surely proved by their almost incredible fear of killing the West German photographic industry stone dead.

As to the balance of payments, the sum of small imports must amount to a colossal total. Shopping on the Continent one normally finds the goods are the products of the country but I am continually amazed at the range of imported articles in this country. It does not seem to matter whether one buys a spoon of Swedish, a clothes brush, or a typewriter from Sweden, or German, or many, or Austria, or wherever, and in many instances the goods really are inferior. Heaven knows why this should be so.

Yours faithfully,  
HANS WOLFF,  
New Foxley,  
Pepper's Common,  
Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire,  
July 31.

From Mr M. J. Voudsen

Sir, In view of the Secretary of State for Trade's recent exhortation to buy cars of British manufacture, regardless of such considerations as quality and value for money, can we now expect a request that we stamp and post empty envelopes as a part of our national duty to bail out a sinking Post Office.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. VOUDSEN,  
36 Oakley Street, Chelsea, SW3.

## Squatters' lease

From Mrs Antony Hugill

Sir, If the lawful squatter is usually the paragon of virtue described by your correspondents today (July 30), he deserves a more fitting title to distinguish him from his unlawful brothers. Or is he really a different tenant, occupying and renovating a landlord's property, rent-free, on a short term repairing lease? Why not call him a tenant?

Yours faithfully,  
FANNY HUGILL,  
The River House,  
Ashton Keynes, Swindon,  
Wiltshire,  
July 30.

## Nestling in The Times

From Mr Eric Diplock

Sir, Whilst carrying out work to my office premises, workmen found a nest made by mice under the floor boards. We cleaned one corner of the newspaper and found it was an edition of *The Times* for December 8, 1875, with a report headed "President Grant's Message" by Reuters' Telegram from Washington DC.

The nest was beautifully made and it is satisfactory to think that whatever the virtue of the news, at least the mice made good use of your paper!

Yours faithfully,  
ERIC DIPLOCK,  
Lanes End House,  
15 Prince Albert Street,  
Brighton,  
July 31.

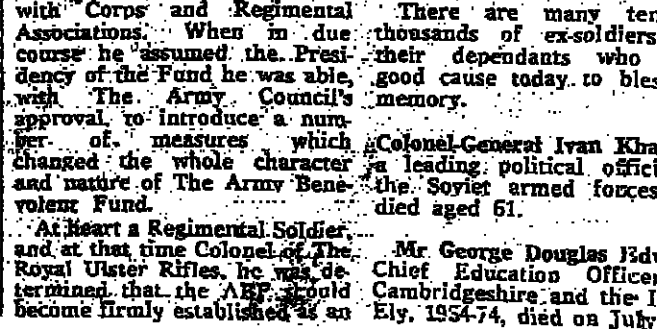
## David Wood

## Putting party before the rule of law

There is any Labour member of the House of Commons who believes in a lawmaker who is steadfast asserting the rule of law, then tonight is surely the time to stand and be counted. He will do so, though, only by defying a heavy re-election whip, a mandatory majority decision of the Parliamentary Labour Party, and the charged will of the Labour Party's national executive committee and its conference. In such circumstances heroes will be few, although there may be two or three half-men who will dare to abstain.

Tonight the Housing Finance (Special Provisions) Bill, the so-called Clay Cross Bill, returns from the Lords to the Commons with four amendments, three of them substantial, the fourth no longer relevant.







# Frozen foods

a Special Report

## £800m industry brings convenience into three million kitchens

by Graham Kemp

At the end of August, the frozen food industry will have packed and stored over 400 million packets of peas and beans—enough to keep the shopkeepers' shelves stocked for the next 12 months. In one factory in Great Yarmouth, food freezing started years ago (almost in 24 hours as much as they did in the whole of the 50s).

The difference in scale of mechanization is even the handful of people in the business recall those primitive attempts to capture these lively summer crops. But the seeds planted at that time have grown into a £800m industry with a range of low temperature storage depots linking 1,000 shops to the hands of producers who supply them. This "cold chain" today extends into three million homes—three million kitchens with home freezers.

Unavoidably, production lines in the factories are computerized, selecting and grading peas according to size and quality demanded by housewives, caterers and families in different parts of the country. In the South Midlands, frozen peas are set the standard for the next two decades. There, the 11 sweet varieties, graded by factories, have become a norm against which all are—canned, dried or home—are judged.

In the North-west and Scotland, however, people still for the large varieties, so frozen food companies have directed their technology towards producing "ushy peas" the kind you find in the fish and chips of Wigan and Rochdale.

Only last month a report from one of the frozen food companies pointed out that "new ideas are coming forward as fast as ever and that customers are prepared to pay for the convenience of canned, frozen and prepared foods, even while inflation rages".

The market research people who produce the Mintel reports found in a recent study that almost half the food manufacturers approached claimed they would be launching more new products in 1975-76 than they had in the past three years. Some of this could be the result of work in the pipeline from earlier days. But going ahead in these grim times suggests a will to invest that may surprise the more gloomy of our economic forecasters.

129,000 tons in 1974—while the production of quick-frozen fish over the same decade jumped from 105,000 tons to 145,000 tons. More than 28 per cent of all the white fish landed in Britain is now frozen and another 61,000 tons is imported—nearly half of it from Norway.

The industry celebrates two anniversaries this year, because it was in 1955 that fish fingers appeared on the market for the first time. However, vegetables and fish no longer dominate the industry as they did up to 10 years ago. New companies have emerged to challenge the supremacy of Birds Eye, Ross and Finndus and the brand leaders themselves have set a cracking pace in recent months in the development of new products.

In the past year, scarcely the most propitious for innovation and investment, the major companies have introduced cheesecakes and Chinese meals, crispy cakes and egg custard tarts, potato waffles and egg, bacon and cheese flap, steak and kidney puddings, profiteroles, pizzas and apple strudels, family beef pies and "sizzlers".

### A surprising will to invest

Only last month a report from one of the frozen food companies pointed out that "new ideas are coming forward as fast as ever and that customers are prepared to pay for the convenience of canned, frozen and prepared foods, even while inflation rages".

The market research people who produce the Mintel reports found in a recent study that almost half the food manufacturers approached claimed they would be launching more new products in 1975-76 than they had in the past three years. Some of this could be the result of work in the pipeline from earlier days. But going ahead in these grim times suggests a will to invest that may surprise the more gloomy of our economic forecasters.

The penalty for failure though can be extremely serious when so much effort and investment is poured into the development of a new idea. Frozen food companies watch social trends and family feeding habits with as much attention as the National Food Survey Com-

mittee and were encouraged last month by the news that "tomorrow's women"—women under 35—plan to buy more canned, packaged and frozen foods over the next five years.

Almost two thirds of the women interviewed by National Opinion Polls and Taylor Nelson Associates for the Birds Eye annual review said they expected to be buying more frozen foods in 1980, while a third thought they would be buying more canned or packaged foods.

Trends emphasized in the latest National Food Survey support this statement of intent by younger housewives, especially among those in the freezer-owning homes. In 1973, the year covered by this survey, expenditure on frozen convenience foods was 9p a person each week, compared with 6p in 1968. In those with only a refrigerator, and 4p in other households.

At that time 10.6 per cent of Britain's 18 million families owned a freezer. Today the proportion is nearer 18 per cent and could be as high as 20 per cent by the end of the year. As it happens, frozen foods established themselves in Britain without widespread refrigeration in the home.

But the arrival of the freezer in the 1970s changed the character of the business, just as the supermarket and commercial television changed its character in the fifties and sixties. Commercial television, which started in 1955, coincided with the launch of fish fingers in Britain and probably did more than anything else to communicate the idea of frozen foods at that time.

The freezer movement gathers momentum in spite of the 25 per cent value-added tax imposed by the last Budget. It has produced not only a new generation of home preserving enthusiasts, but an entire industry of ancillary suppliers offering packaging materials, books, foil and heat sealers. It also created a new type of retailing in Britain—the freezer centre—still unique, and a challenge to the supremacy of the supermarket in frozen food trading. It is the Co-op that has set the pace, providing nearly 200 centres compared with Bejam's 100.

The impact of the home freezer on frozen food companies and their traditional supermarket customers has been dramatic. Some of them were slow off the mark

in recognizing the opportunity for larger bulk packs at lower unit prices and their hesitation enabled many smaller companies to break into the market through the developing freezer centres.

Some took the easy way by offering bulk packs originally designed for caterers. Others developed packaging specifically for the home freezer owner or for caterers buying in bulk from the cash and carry warehouse.

So far, the only product developed exclusively for the home freezer owner is Soft Scoop ice cream, called because you can scoop it directly from the container while it is still in the freezer—without the hazard of bent spoons and frozen teeth. The British spent £149m on ice cream last year, of which no less than 13 per cent was sold through the freezer centres. These figures come from the recent Wall's report.

Whether the industry can maintain its momentum over the next few years will depend to a great extent on the rate of inflation, recession and unemployment. Inflation has not hit frozen food purchasing as heavily as some companies which forecast in 1974. But the cost of vegetables, meat and packaging materials has upset the industry's collective cash flow and the 28 per cent rise in the cost of labour (in what is still a labour intensive industry) is now a matter for considerable concern.

### Slow start by local producers

by Denis Bradfield

The British housewife needed convincing that a refrigerator is essential in the kitchen and the struggle to attain the present day acceptance rate of 85 per cent has taken half a century. Such a demonstration of caution makes it all the more remarkable that 18 per cent of British homes now contain freezers despite their being almost unheard of seven years ago.

At that time the annual sale of freezers fell short of the total number of British manufactured refrigerators sold on the home market during a 10-day period last April. The domestic freezer boom began in 1969 and sales reached a peak in 1973 when more than 800,000 were sold. Despite inflation and the imposition of 25 per cent value-added tax, sales this year are expected to be as high as 700,000.

Door-to-door salesmen sold many of the freezers up to three years ago and the carrot they dangled was a possible 25 per cent cut in the household food bill. In the hands of an expert such savings were possible but it is more fair to say that freezer ownership helps families to live much better at no greater cost.

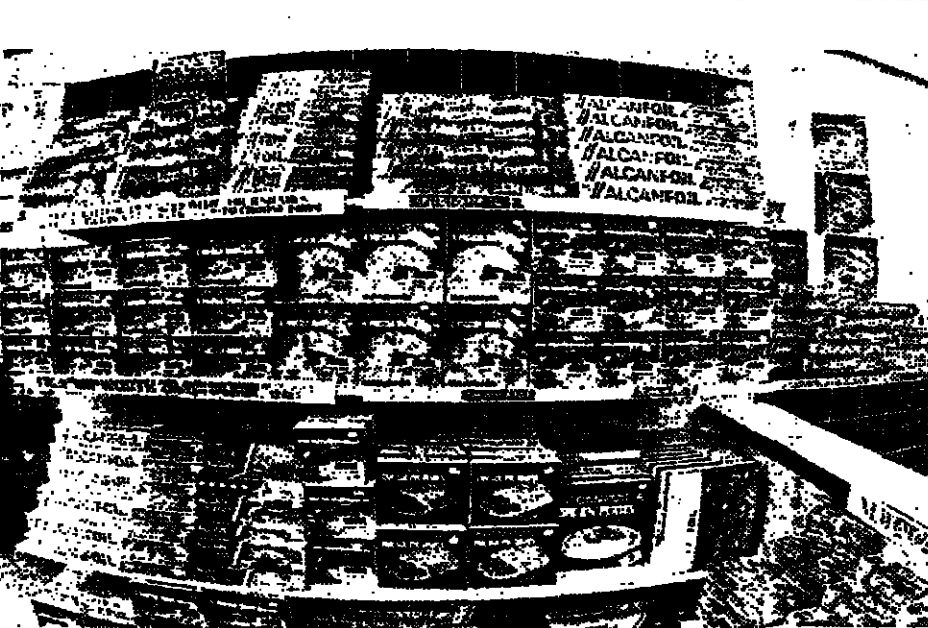
Many housewives were and indeed continue to be, frightened of their new white monsters and it was for this reason that *The Freezer Family* and *Freeze* magazines were launched almost four years ago to help allay fears and misunderstandings often created by the existence of too many freezer cook-books containing conflicting advice.

The *Freeze* title has since been absorbed by *The Freezer Family* which is the only magazine entirely devoted to the subject of freezing. *Home and Freezer Digest*, which says it allocates 30 per cent of its editorial content to freezer topics, is another addition to the scene.

Major frozen food producers never believed a mere seven years ago that there would be three million freezers in British homes by the end of 1975. British refrigerator manufacturers were even less convinced, and most of the freezers in British homes are of foreign construction. Sales of British machines are now healthy but with a freezer life expectancy of 10 years, valuable orders were lost by companies which should have shown greater courage.

More than half the freezers in use are of 12 cu ft capacity or more and of the chest variety. Upright models are becoming more popular but it is too early to judge whether this trend is influenced by design preference or simply lack of space. Upright models are slightly more costly to run and considerably more costly to buy. Until the public start buying their first replacement freezers, manufacturers can only estimate the market

continued on next page



## Look who's at the centre of the freezing business.

When a freezer owner goes shopping, Alcan is the sign she looks for. Alcan manufacture and market the widest range of branded freezer wrapping products to help her keep food fresh. Bags, wrap, foil, trays, dishes. A complete range in a variety of sizes.

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Home freezers have begun to help to bring about radical changes in shopping, which in turn have affected the type, siting and layout of shops. The freezer centre is one example of this change; another is the emergence of the cash-and-carry warehouse with its large frozen food department offering a wide variety to caterers and small retailers prepared to collect their own orders.

A recent NOP survey among 500 housewives revealed that three quarters still do their main shopping once a week. But 4 per cent had only one main shopping outing a month.

The signs point clearly towards less frequent but faster main shopping expeditions, although most British housewives still find it necessary to supplement their main shopping by visiting or average three other types of shop each week.

Retailers recognised years ago that convenience, combined with value for money was the formula for success. Hence the arrival of super markets. More recently the growing reliance on the car—the average weight of a modern family's weekly shopping is 120lb—has accelerated the development of "one-stop" shopping. Research by the Gordon Simmonds research company confirms that the car-borne shopper is of growing importance.

Statistics supplied by the company show that expenditure at grocers and food departments by car shoppers stood at 24 per cent in 1970 but had risen to 32 per cent by last year.

Today 150 stores fall within the "superstore" category, offering food and a wide range of other goods such as furniture and clothing all under one roof at discount prices. That type of store is usually willing and able to plan for above average sales of frozen food.

Big superstore operators, such as ASDA and Carrefour, have acknowledged the increasing demand for convenience foods, especially frozen food, and have installed long runs of refrigerated display cabinets.

At Carrefour's Caerphilly superstore, frozen food, excluding meat and poultry, now accounts for 4 per cent of total sales and 8 per cent of food sales. All ASDA's stores have frozen food sections and refrigeration footages average 92 linear feet in each store, which includes ice cream but not meat. Some of the new ASDA stores have doubled their space allocation for frozen foods.

Confidence in the long-term future of frozen foods

## Big investments reflect confidence in future

by David Cox



After careful washing and grading, peas are closely inspected as part of a rigorous quality control system.

is confirmed by the capital sums being invested by the large multiple groups. Tesco, for instance, is investing £1m in refrigeration development and most of the other groups have increased refrigeration in existing stores or in newly converted freezer centres.

Frozen food producers remain reasonably cheerful in spite of the economic gloom. It is estimated that one in five homes will have a freezer by the end of 1975. Increased home freezer ownership has resulted in a change in eating as well as shopping habits for a fairly large sector of the British public. A thousand freezer centres have opened in recent years to cope with this demand.

In a recent NOP survey for Birds Eye it was shown that 72 per cent of the 500 house-

wives sampled bought most of their food at a large supermarket: 18 per cent used a small supermarket while 7 per cent were buying at either a superstore or hypermarket.

The trend is confirmed by the Gordon Simmonds grocery trade index which indicates a clear movement away from counter service, down from 20 per cent in 1970 to 9 per cent in 1974, towards self-service, up from 72 per cent to 78 per cent in the same period.

But while suburban superstores seem to answer the shopping requirements of young housewives there are indications that their arrival has caused an imbalance in retail distribution which is quickly being exploited by the fast growing cash-and-carry operators.

Last year's Nielsen annual review revealed that as many as 50,000 independent and voluntary group grocers now make weekly shopping trips to cash-and-carry wholesalers.

Rising fuel oil and labour costs have forced many suppliers to cut out small drops and reduce the number of deliveries to customers. Particularly hard hit are the frozen food companies whose dependence upon expensive refrigerated delivery vehicles means that their costs are much higher than ordinary grocery manufacturers.

That situation has led the small independent grocer and confectionery, tobacconist and newsagent (CTN) to consider essential, especially the growing number of cash-and-carry wholesalers. Estimates vary as to the exact size of the frozen food business in cash-and-carry outlets, but extend from a conservative £12m to a more likely £15m a year, of which catering claims about 60 per cent with the remaining 40 per cent in retail packs.

What is certain is that the amount of frozen food sold through cash-and-carry is increasing rapidly. Estimates of 25 per cent a year are thought to be realistic. But as with so many other sectors of the retail trade, there

is still a reluctance to install sufficient display and back-up refrigeration. Inadequate refrigeration has, in the eyes of the frozen food suppliers, been one of the main reasons for holding back even more rapid expansion in frozen food consumption.

There is still a divergence of opinion among retailers as to whether separate freezer centres attract more custom than a frozen food section within a store. But an issue that receives less publicity than it deserves is the steady advance in store refrigeration.

It is not difficult to point to antiquated store refrigeration, but there has been some progress in recent years. Back-up cold stores, which keep stocks of frozen food ready for replenishing store cabinets were almost unheard of in the sixties but are now considered essential, especially in the large newly built stores.

Different types of display cabinets are also going into service. Further developments include reflective ceilings immediately above the frozen food cabinet which reflect heat and light away from the refrigerated display cases and the use of blinds to reflect most of the radiant heat away when the store is shut overnight.

### Slow start by local producers

continued from preceding page

they must tool up for in the 1980s.

It was possible for the frozen food industry in the early days to plan on the assumption that what the American housewife did today the British housewife would do tomorrow. The advent of the domestic freezer changed all that when it became apparent that the British usage was unique.

Unlike the United States where freezers are simply cupboards for commercial frozen produce, in Britain they have to cope with the freezing of home-grown and home-cooked items. The volume of sales to domestic freezer owners is small but the influence of this new growth is significant.

It has checked the dominance of the big companies and made it possible for a number of smaller specialist producers to remain in business and develop, without access to display space in supermarkets.

Birth of the freezer food centre (another form of retailing which began in Britain) that has provided the vital outlet for the lesser known brands of food.

Within little more than five years 900 centres have opened in the country, selling in bulk packs at discounts of up to 25 per cent. In the early stages direct delivery companies were also formed to provide a similar service but most have closed because of rising transport costs.

For fear of upsetting major customers, manufacturers of the most popular brands of frozen foods did not make them available for sale in freezer food centres during the early days of development. To be able to offer attractive price reductions the centres had to concentrate on selling catering packs, which were unattractive and displayed little known brand names.

The packs were never intended for such usage and many a tale has been told of hours spent trying to separate six sausages from a frozen block of 50. The industry

has geared itself to the new form of retailing and there is now a wide range of specialist packs on offer to freezer owners.

During the development period a special relationship formed between the consumer and the freezer food store. Freezer owners were, after all, paying large sums for food of unknown origin, and became dependent on the integrity of the store. This has been a lasting effect and it can be argued that freezer owners are ahead of the field in placing less reliance on the brand image and greater emphasis on the reputation for service that multiples and freezer food centres have built for themselves.

Cash flow difficulties have caused many independent freezer food centres to close down within the past year but others are now well established. Bejam is one of the oldest. It went public a few years ago and recently celebrated the opening of its 100th store. Gordon Bleth with 36 units of 3,000 to 4,000 sq ft, presenting food in 50 to 70 chest freezers, offer a similar service in the North.

Dalgety Frozen Foods have 30 outlets and a different sales policy. J. H. Dewhurst, the meat chain, has recently entered the field and, as a result of two takeovers, runs 47 centres.

The balanced move into the freezer food service by the multiple chains is bound to create keen competition. The Co-operative has 180 centres and Fine Fare, Sainsbury and Tesco are among the well-known names to have opened a few centres. But it will take time before the final policies of the multiples are established.

There is development within many supermarkets of "in-store" freezer service sections. These may be preferred — it depends on whether bulk-pack selling operations at lower prices can be seen to be acceptable to the majority of supermarket customers having to pay more because they lack the required storage facility.

## Entrée into catering

by Miles Quest

Rising food costs and wages are encouraging the hotel and catering industry to take a new look at frozen foods. Although, contrary to popular opinion, caterers have never been opposed in principle to the use of frozen foods.

Frozen vegetables have been widely accepted for many years and there are many catering outlets where the freezer is a most useful means of storing fresh, perishable foods like bread and cakes. Ice cream is, perhaps, the most popular of all sweets and pre-portioned chilled or frozen meat is used extensively throughout the catering industry.

The shift in attitude towards even greater acceptance of frozen foods, and frozen entrées in particular, has come about in the past few years and has been encouraged by cost considerations and by the nature of demand for the industry's services. The peaks and troughs of demand during the day cannot be levelled by normal methods of fresh food preparation in the kitchen. In popular areas, a mass catering operation, such as the provision of food for hospitals, industrial catering and hotels, the five-hotel Courtlands Hotel group in Bourne mouth has developed its own central food production unit.

In many other cases, the amount of frozen food needed is not sufficient to support production within the company and frozen food is bought in. That still has advantages to the caterer because, although his food costs are much higher, the savings in labour and space are considerable.

Unfortunately, the food manufacturer has been badly hit by rising costs. The constant pressure by industrial and welfare caterers to keep prices down means that, for the manufacturer, that sector of the catering market shows enormous growth potential but at very tight margins. On the other hand, the higher end of the market which shows much less growth for the manufacturer offers much healthier margins.

It is likely that the situation will be rather different in two ways. The cost of food will inevitably rise in industrial and welfare catering and either the consumer will have to pay more or there will have to be a higher subsidy by the company or local authority. Second, the use of frozen entrées will become more prevalent throughout the catering industry. By the end of the decade it is likely that only expensive restaurants will be ignoring frozen entrées entirely.

Will the public mind? Part of the myth of the unacceptability of frozen food came from the fact that in the early days it was of variable standard. The companies now serving the catering market have become more specialized, producing high-quality products at an economic price, which the public is willing to accept in a variety of situations.

For example, a new bistro in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire, is so convinced that frozen foods are here to stay that it is serving its complete menu from frozen foods — and telling the customers. And Coope, the owner, is planning to extend the concept to some of its other pubs. It is a sign of the times.

The mass caterer is tackling the difficulty in two ways. He is setting up a central production unit, buying fresh food into the unit (which is, in fact, a frozen food factory) and preparing, cooking, freezing and storing the food in the unit until it is required by the various points of service, which may be anywhere within a 20-mile radius or so. Alternatively, he is buying frozen entrées from the big manufacturers and from the many smaller, more specialized manufacturers serving the catering industry.

There are advantages to both systems. If the demand for meals is sufficiently high it is worth while for the caterer to set up a central production unit and to produce the frozen food himself.

That is what is happening in Liverpool, for example, where the city is well on the way to producing meals for all its schools in central production units and transporting them frozen to the schools. The system is being developed by many other local authorities and by hospitals, industrial catering and hotels. The five-hotel Courtlands Hotel group in Bourne mouth has developed its own central food production unit.

The author is editor of *Catering Times*.

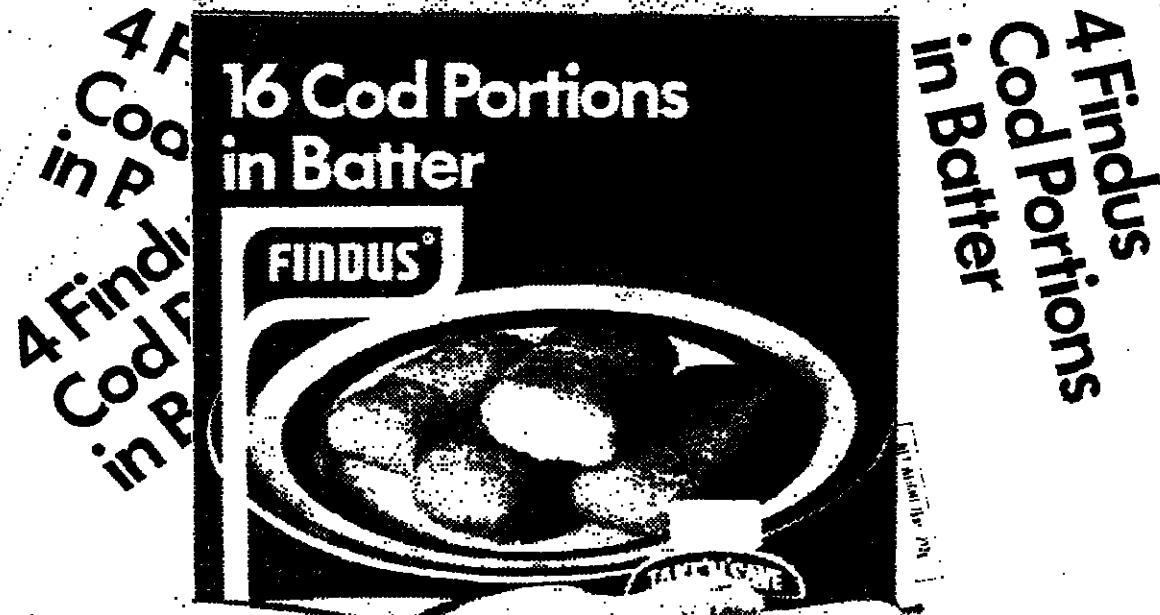
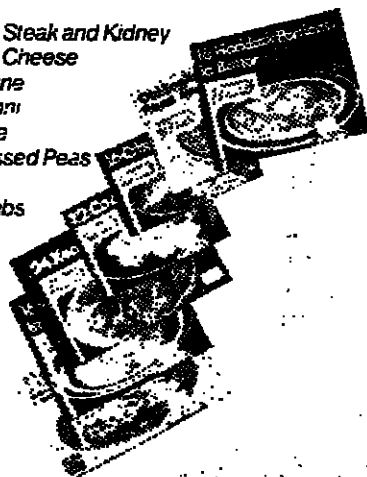
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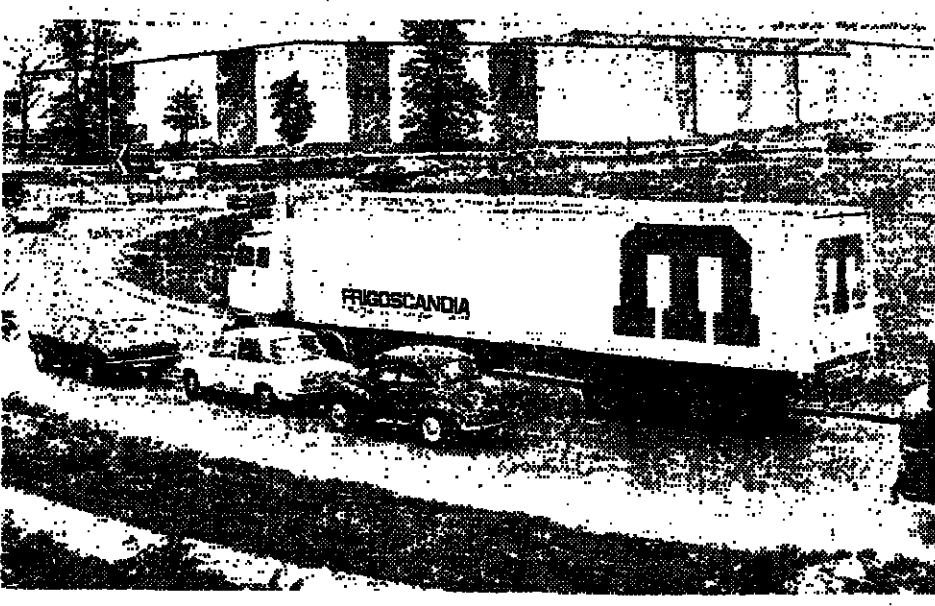
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# Centralization essential element in freezer chain

by Alan Bailey

It is not surprising that the freezer chain is becoming a central element in the food industry. The principle behind the new National Freight Corporation and the development of new concepts in freezing and subsequent distribution. For example, Frigoscandia is the world's largest international operator of commercial cold storage and one of Europe's leading service organizations. The freezer chain is becoming a central element in the food industry. The principle behind the new National Freight Corporation and the development of new concepts in freezing and subsequent distribution. For example, Frigoscandia is the world's largest international operator of commercial cold storage and one of Europe's leading service organizations. The freezer chain is becoming a central element in the food industry. The principle behind the new National Freight Corporation and the development of new concepts in freezing and subsequent distribution. For example, Frigoscandia is the world's largest international operator of commercial cold storage and one of Europe's leading service organizations.



Right: bulk storage of frozen food at a Birds Eye depot. Top: a refrigerated truck on the way to a 2,600,000 cu ft cold store at King's Lynn, Norfolk (in background).

# Signed, sealed and delivered

by Helen Harris

The demand for convenience foods has increased rapidly in recent years. One outcome has been the endless range of products for cold storage preservation; all presenting a wide variety of problems for their packaging and handling. There are three fundamental principles behind the packaging of any product—its protection, maintaining its quality, and providing for product identification, as well as attractiveness in the case of the consumer products. Frozen food packaging presents two additional requirements: the packaging material itself must withstand cold storage conditions without deterioration; and the packaging process must take into account the limited period of time in which the product must be in a suitable condition for packing. Good packaging will inhibit dehydration, prevent strong flavours travelling from one food to another, and prevent moisture being drawn from other parts of the freezer and appearing as "snow" or "frost" on the product. With fresh meat, flavour and colour deterioration are additional problems caused by loss of moisture, the creation of pigments on exposure of the meat to the air, or by bacterial attack. Carelessly packed meat and poultry will also develop freezer burn on exposed areas, causing the tissues to become tough and spongy. A variety of materials is used in the packaging of frozen foods to try to overcome these problems. There are four major groups—aluminium, plastic, paper, and composite laminates. They each differ in permeability, mechanical properties and resistance to extremes of temperature. Frozen food as a convenience product now comes in a surprising variety—vegetables, fruit, fruit juices, potato products, fish and fish products, bakery products, ice-cream, meat, game and poultry, not to mention prepared foods. Some of the most significant advances in the industry in recent years have been in the development of packaging materials for prepared or precooked frozen foods. The demand for these continues to increase as consumers become more and more convenience oriented. Aluminium foil is one of the basic materials used with prepared frozen foods involving high temperatures either during the processing or subsequently in the consumer's kitchen. It has excellent barrier qualities offering protection from light, dehydration and odour. One difficulty with aluminium foil has been in sealing, so that foil containers have been limited to foods that can be baked or roasted. The introduction of heat-seal coatings may encourage more widespread use of these containers, for example, for products to be boiled in the bag, particularly if the worldwide shortage of some plastic materials persists. Aluminium is obtained from bauxite, one of the most plentiful ores in the earth's crust. But with increasing interest in the recycling of waste products, it is likely that in future significant quantities of foil containers will be re-covered and reprocessed. Other developments will be the introduction of multi-colour printed containers, perhaps even with simulated chinaware patterns to provide disposable dinner-party serving dishes. Coloured lacquering is already being used in some airline meal trays to give decorative coatings on both internal and external surfaces. The use of plastics as a packaging material for frozen foods continues to increase. There are two basic types, rigid and flexible. Rigid plastics have so far been limited to chilled confectionery products such as mousse, which can be consumed directly from the tub or container. Flexible plastics are now used extensively as wrapping for frozen vegetables. One disadvantage is that plastics can impart a taint to foodstuffs. Another is their inadequate temperature performance: plastics exhibit low toleration of the extremes required by freezing and reheating. A new group of methyl pentene resins is proving of interest to the industry because of the resistance of these resins to high temperatures. The introduction of composite laminates has solved many of the problems found with materials used in isolation. Laminates of aluminium and plastic offer the excellent barrier properties of aluminium foil with the laminated plastic counteracting the physical fragility of the foil on its own. Polyethylene and polyester laminates provide the strength and barrier properties of polyesters and

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Marie Antoinette may have said it. But Birds Eye actually did it. Supplied the populace with lots of lovely cake.

Birds Eye Cream Sponges (Dairy and Chocolate), 12 million will be enjoyed this year alone. Which is why they are among the top five best-selling packaged cakes.

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# Meriden workers angry at NVT's public criticism of 'cooperative's prototypes

Roger Vielvoys

The Meriden motor cycle workers' cooperative yesterday asked the troubled Norton Triumph group for a public criticism of the first two prototype models produced by workers' group.

Leaders of the cooperative are angry because Mr. John Pedley, one of NVT's directors, has listed a number of faults found in the machines during a two-week visit to the NVT test track. The company is committed to marketing the cooperative's output, and Mr. Pedley said the new designs were unsatisfactory from a marketing point of view.

Mr. Dennis Johnson, chairman of the Meriden cooperative, said that the criticism was "most unsatisfactory" and that the cooperative had been told that the prototypes were "not good enough to put into production."

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## alks sought in cutback of Innocenti

Mr. John Earle

Mr. Percy Plant, chairman of Innocenti, is seeking talks with Signor Mario Monti, the Minister of Labour, with leaders of the metalworking trade unions to discuss the company's plans to discuss the third of the labour force.

The outlook facing the Milan subsidiary of British Leyland, which assembles mainly in Italy, is being considered as a drastic reduction would be to be withdrawal from the market.

Mr. Plant has had an exclusive meeting with Signor Carlo Donat Cattin, the Italian Minister, but there is feeling in company circles that neither the government nor the union leadership wishes to be involved in concrete discussions during the works' protest for holidays.

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Mr. Johnson replied that the two models had also been tested at the Motor Industry Research Association premises in the Midlands and had passed with "flying colours".

According to the certificate from the association, noise levels ranged from 79 to 80 decibels while the maximum permitted noise level in the United States, the main market for the machines, is 83 decibels. Braking speeds and distances had been acceptable. "I cannot do anything until I receive the NVT report," Mr. Johnson added.

Mr. Pedley denied yesterday that the problems with the new machines would be a body-blow for the cooperative. "They will have to get down to putting these defects right. But to say the company's whole future is at stake would be alarmist and untrue."

NVT's most pressing problem this week will come from its Wolverhampton subsidiary where Norton machines are made. The company is planning to start a liquidator in after failing to get financial aid from the Government.

Workers from the plant and other engineering factories in the area intend to picket the works. As 200 workers were holding a weekend meeting at the factory, Mr. John Pedley, the managing director, arrived after breaking off a holiday in Malta. Mr. Pedley was inside the plant for about half an hour.

On the way out he said: "I am sad, sick and sorry about this decision. The fact is that the Government has let us down."

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# Brokers predict grim five years for Britain

Britain's economic prospects to the end of the present decade are grim, according to Phillips and Drew, the stockbroking firm. Its computer forecasts show unemployment in 1979 still at levels of around 900,000.

In its latest monthly Economic Forecasts, the brokers predict that while inflation will fall to 12 per cent in the first half of 1977, it will be back to 16 per cent by the beginning of 1979, without having come down to single figures.

A special article on the medium-term outlook also paints a dismal picture for British tourists, with the value of the pound abroad falling a further third by 1979.

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# PO Users' Council will call for economies

By Business News Staff

Formal reaction to the proposed higher postal and telephone charges is being prepared by the Post Office Users' National Council for submission by Wednesday of this week.

Lord Peddie, chairman of POUNC, said yesterday that although the content of their report had not yet been completed, no extension to the time-limit for reaction was being sought.

The proposed increase, the second this year, would raise the charge for first-class letters to 81p and for second-class to 61p. Parcel rates would go up by 30 per cent in addition to higher telephone charges and a cut in services, in an attempt to cut losses which last year totalled nearly £307m.

While recognizing that the Government's new requirements to become self-financing, POUNC is strongly opposed to cuts in services without a careful examination of savings.

The council has already told a Parliamentary subcommittee on nationalized industries that it wants a full inquiry into the Post Office's function and operation.

After the last postal price increase in March, there was an unexpectedly sharp fall of about 25 per cent in the volume of first-class mail carried. This has been only partially offset by a 12 per cent rise in second-class postal traffic.

There are fears that the further increases could lead to a further drop in the overall volume of post carried and thus bring in little extra revenue. POUNC wants a careful analysis of the relative effects on the two postal services.

The users' council is also expected to press for a re-examination and costing of services provided by the Post Office for other government departments. These include pension payments, sale of television and other tax forms.

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# US views clash over Russian move for more grain purchases

From Frank Vogl Washington, Aug 3

Russia will seek to buy between six and 16 million tonnes of grain on world markets in the coming months. Soviet purchases so far this year total a little more than 14 million tonnes.

Most of the additional purchases are expected to come from the United States, but President Ford is facing increasing pressure to limit such exports.

Senator Charles Percy has quoted highly reliable sources for the information that the Soviet harvest was unlikely to produce more than 175 million tonnes of grain.

The United States Department of Agriculture's estimates suggest the Russian crop will produce 185 million tonnes, out of the 205 million tonnes needed.

Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, told Congressmen recently that he was "frightened" about the possible impact on inflation of large sales of grain to Russia.

What is alarming economists is that it is increasingly clear that many estimates made by the Department of Agriculture of world grain output appear to be too optimistic.

Mr Earl Butz, the Secretary for Agriculture, has apparently become so convinced of the accuracy of his department's estimates that he is taking every opportunity to state that even huge additional purchases here by Russia would not have a substantial impact on prices.

He is warning President Ford that to limit sales to Russia could cost the President a lot of votes in the Mid-West in next year's elections.

But the Congress, fortified by Dr Burns's remarks, may well be heading toward action to restrict exports. A good number of Congressmen appear to have accepted the view of Mr John Schickel, former Undersecretary of Agriculture, that sales to Russia should be limited until mid-September or early October when the full size of the United States harvest is known.

A major political controversy could develop if the department allows further sales to the Russians next month and then has to report in September that the American harvest was severely damaged by poor weather, as it was last year.

The Senate's agriculture committee has already announced that it will hold hearings on Soviet grain purchases as soon as Congress returns from its holiday at the start of September.

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# Provisions by Crown Agents could top £100m

By Our Financial Staff

Provisions against commitments in property and second-hand banking made by the Crown Agents could total over £100m, it was confirmed yesterday by Mr John Cuckney, the organization's chairman.

This was somewhat higher than the interim assessment made last December, when the Crown Agents obtained £85m from the Government.

But there were no plans to seek any fresh government funds on account of this, or the extensive commitments in the Australian property market, before discussions with the Ministry for Overseas Development on establishing a new legal basis for the Agents later this year.

Although there had been some deterioration in the loan portfolio since Conpers & Lybrand's initial report, the 1974 accounts, expected out shortly, were expected to show that the group went into the year with reserves well short of the £37m given in the unaudited internal management accounts for 1973.

But the resulting technical insolvency, Mr Cuckney said, was "irrelevant" in the context of the Government's guarantee for the group's deposits.

Mr Reg Prentice, Minister for Overseas Development, is expected to make a further statement on the Crown Agents and their financial position.

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# German rights issues raise record £455m

By Peter Norman Bonn, Aug 3

West Germany's public quoted companies raised a record DM2,500m (about £455m) through rights issues in the first six months of this year.







## RD-‘Shell’ six months’ profits due Thursday

With Royal Dutch and "Shell" reporting this week, the vexed question of international oil profitability comes to the fore again. Those twins will announce their earnings for the first half of 1975 on Thursday.

Other major results expected include mid-year statements from Westinghouse, Glynnwed, Honzer, and Barnor Hornburn, the leather group. Among full preliminary results will be APV Industries and Salfour-Darwins. Another eagerly-awaited and apprehensively awaited—news item is the results of Metal Box's 234th rights issue, expected on Tuesday.

export context, it has recently obtained a big order for two large generating sets from South America, though this may not be completed in the current term. A doubling of capacity is under way to enable it to handle more of this type of business.

On liquidity, the company has a large amount of money tied up in stock, but is still in a net liquid position at home, and expect to remain so. The board has budgeted for capital expenditure of some £600,000 this year, and has adequate facilities arranged with its bankers.

Negotiations for the proposed acquisition by the group's clothing division, mentioned in June, are not complete, Mr Alec Higham, chairman of Lancashire-based Highams, told the annual meeting. After 20 years at the head, he is succeeded by Mr William Higham, managing director.

the two months following the increase in VAT from 8 to 25 per cent, Mr M. Fry, chairman, told the annual meeting in London. But even before the Government defeat on the issue, the position was changing and there is now a weekly gain. This is expected to increase as autumn approaches, and Mr Fry believes new rental business will return to last year's level. Generally, the limitation in pay increases would aid the company to maintain its rental rates at a reasonable level.

Opening the Inverness Mercury Motor Inn, Mr T. L. Porter, chairman of Leisure & General Holdings, referring to full-time accounts for the year to April, expected early next month, said they point to a "significant" improvement.

Its Scottish operations had been an important factor. Visitors in the present season to the group's Scottish motor inns show an increase of over 20 per cent on the preceding year. Encouraging reports had

**A. A. V.**

	Latest Price	Prev Week
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of

Mr. J. A. Cave has been elected managing director of British

**Chairman of Midland Bank Finance Corporation**, the group's holding and management company, responsible for related financial activities, principally installing credit, leasing and factoring. He succeeds Mr M. G. Wilcox, a former director of the bank and general manager, Midland Bank, who remains on the board as a non-executive director.

Mr S. J. Porter has been made an executive director of Midland Bank Finance Corporation, while Mr T. A. O'Malley and Mr A. Anderson have joined the corporation's board in non-executive capacities as managing directors of Forward Trust and Midland Montagu Leasing respectively, two of MBFC's major subsidiaries.

Mr Herbert Townsend has relinquished his position as chairman of Scotia Investments and has resigned as a director. Mr Colyn Braun, at present deputy chairman, becomes chairman.

Mr Robert Leigh-Pemberton, previously deputy chairman of Birmid Quacast, becomes chairman in place of the Marquess of Epsom, who resigns as a director on reaching retirement age. Mr J. P. Inschi becomes deputy chairman. Mr W. C. Jordan becomes managing director, and has retired.

Mr H. P. Harshy has been made

**Industrial Fastenings.**

Mr Peter Leslie, a general manager of Barclays Bank, has been named as new post of general manager (group finance).

Mr M. M. Cannon has been made managing director and Mr T. H. Collier director and general manager of Industrial Fastenings.

Mr E. J. W. Buckler becomes chairman of Hans Ueber UK.

Mr Richard Higginson has been named vice-president of The Chalmers Australian Bank.

Mr David Viney, chief executive of the North West Water Authority, has been made senior economic adviser in the department of the National Water Council.

Mr Hugh Martin-Leake becomes a director of Monte Pumps. He also becomes a director of other operating companies in the group.

Sir Arthur Knight has resigned from the board of Fye Holdings.

Mr Z. Sofer becomes managing director of Arbutnot Ltd., London. His moves include: Mr C. D. Baxter, manager, foreign exchange department; Mr A. Brind, managing director of money; Mr C. A. Clarke, manager, corporate services division; Mr L. J. McNeill, manager, corporate services division; Mr R. G. Smith, manager, corporate services division.

**Export Services.**

Mr J. C. Lewis has been named a director of Plantation Holdings.

Mr P. A. Smurfit has become sales and marketing director of Smurfit Limited. Mr B. Cairns will retain responsibility for these activities in Ireland.

Mr John Fell has joined the board of Economic Forestry (Scotland) Ltd.

Mr Derek Budden has joined the board of Development Securities.

Mr L. Fraser has been made a director of F. and C. Management.

Mr J. W. V. Andrews, joint managing director of Capital & Counties, has been named president and chief executive of Abbey Glen Property Corporation of Toronto, in which he holds a 6.4 per cent interest. He remains joint managing director of Capital & Counties. Mr John Hamilton, formerly a director of the Abbey Glen board, has been elected chairman.

Mr Norman Black has been named by Phillips & Drew as general manager of the sterling money market department.

## Banking and the housing bonus

**Mr C. M. K. Woodley**

R. E. F. Bigland, chairman British Insurance Association (July 31), reflects as unfair comments by Mr. J. G. McCann on the insurance industry's handling of the National Shipwreck. Such a redistribution of responsibility can only increase the resentment of the ordinary men and women whose savings remain trapped.

Over a year the industry and Government have repeatedly attempted to extricate the shipwrecked policyholders, and are being excavated by old and ill-suited legal machinery at a time when their is for urgency and common sense. All the parties concerned have effectively turned backs on the Life and Assurance Act, and have simply swept such a tragedy under the carpet.

Reliance on the strength of the Life Act, following the collapse, the Government has introduced its new Bill. Protection Bill. This will in fact oblige the Government to aid their brethren, the industry included that it has little to spend time or money on non-Life—an attitude reconfirmed by the chairmen of the Life Offices Association and the Liquidators of Fidelity Life Assurance.

The Government itself admits that it has done enough

just by introducing the new Bill. The holders of Prudential Bills cannot recover their money without the money of other companies who walked away from the problem in 1974 by defaulting the Bill.

The Department of Finance proudly told National Life that they should be satisfied that they will never suffer the same hardship as the shipwrecked policyholder will never be able to pay back what he will never see through their savings which over the next five years and whilst the rates at 20 or 30 per cent. The industry and the Government have jointly spent £20 million so far to be martyrs to a cause that no longer exists. While each accuses the other of negligence, thousands of people continue to suffer the insurance industry undertakes rescues numerous occasions in the past and the Government has qualms in backing legislation in order to satisfy the needs of the policyholders.

The conclusion can be drawn that no one apart from the times cares about the National Life; that the insurance industry has no further interest in the matter than to get a £5m claim from holidaymakers is more tantamount to the Government's similar claim from Yachts faithfully.

C. M. R. WOODLEY  
10 Hartwood Road,  
London, W12.

Mr. D. F. Gilley and fund where it becomes a problem of establishing a productive investment; and it is a fine partnership between

very important amendment has been made to the Security Pensions Bill in the House of Lords. Although it may appear rather technical, it has a great bearing on the way in which the Government intend to finance the ageing of the maintenance (if possible) the extension of occupational pension schemes can be achieved. May I explain.

Bill has given rise to a problem about people who have no employment. It is that their preserved sum shall be completely tied against inflation. It is clearly not reasonable to an employer to carry the liability for this, since an undue provision for escalation to an employee who has no employment is undesirable, as indeed the Government has indicated by proposals for escalation after retirement shall be the responsibility of the State.

As the Bill stood until 23, the only alternative was to accept this substantial risk was to pay a fixed limited revaluation sum to buy back into the scheme responsible for the above 5 per cent. and to open to serious objection. I partially defeats the object of the Bill, to get money back into the state, e. where it will be spent, and of allowing it to remain in occupational pension schemes.

It creates a psychological disinclination to contracting out by requiring an employer, whenever employees have left his service, to make payments to the state out of the fund, and thus just at the time when his business may be contracting and his financial position difficult.

Those involved with the provision of pensions have repeatedly pressed on the Government that a different course should be adopted, the figure of 5 per cent. being replaced by a figure (8 per cent.) broadly corresponding with the cost of the Government's solution and the employer thereby being relieved of the necessity to pay lump sums to the state.

This proposal, which would greatly improve the attraction of contracting out at an insignificant cost, has unfortunately met with no success; but an alternative solution is offered by the amendment agreed in the House of Lords on July 23, allowing occupational pension schemes to be exempted from paying a buy-back premium for preserving escalation at an appropriately enhanced rate.

We recall the hopes so often expressed that the present Social Security Pensions Bill will end the repeated swings of the pendulum which have for so long been preventing progress in the development of occupational pensions, and will achieve an agreed and therefore enduring solution of the state pension scheme and occupational pension schemes, the latter being recognized, having great value for the employees concerned and, for the nation, contributing greatly to anti-inflation policies and to the raising of funds for industrial investment.

Regrettably these hopes have suffered serious setbacks in discussions which have taken place on amendments suggested by the pensions industry, although we recognize that some of the proposed amendments have been, at least partly, accepted by the Government.

Of course the accelerated recent months of an alarming rate of inflation has had much to do with erosion of confidence. But the Government have accepted the modification of features of the scheme which must straiten a major disincentive for employers to contract out.

It is therefore our earnest hope that something of the lines of the amendment agreed in the House of Lords on Wednesday will be included in the Bill when it returns to the House of Commons.

D. F. GILLEY,  
Chairman, National Association of Consulting Actuaries  
MAX LANDER,  
Chairman, National Association of Pension Funds  
SIR DONALD SARGENT,  
Chairman, The CIB Society of Pension Consultants

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er name for corporate offices, with small and highly ing department, with up

responsibility" is "entire self-interest". Most of the arguments put forward for the need to achieve greater involvement in community and projects leave on altruistic grounds, or else they fall into the category of "If the ship of sinks, we all sink".

For companies have been left to see—or afford—the cost of social responsibility, and the burden of the obligations in this field now falls not only the biggest companies in Britain, but some of the more advanced smaller responding to a clear demand from employees and other managers. The business case is now inclusive of social responsibility in their normal formula.

These two organizations are the Resource Centre (ARC) and Trident. Trident is now into its fourth year, placing people in the industry on a three-pronged programme, usually with educational authorities, giving up a three-pronged programme covering leisure, volunteer work and activities for the students.

In the ARC, now two years old, employees shorter or part-time commitments to a variety of community and government projects formed as a result of the meeting, and ARC followed suit a year later. Both ARC and Trident are adamant that the business does not define the needs of society. But discussion with experience programme Trident director, Alan Birnside says: "Teachers don't think about things like industry safety, insurance, organization, so on, or how to start management experience projects. This is where the major industry really helps. But he has in the education authorities to do any good: an outcome isn't he accepted."

ARC's director, David Swann says: "Local authorities and other groups have many things that business can help with—developing budgets, management involvement in marketing, for example. When we request for help we find ourselves in go in and under-estimate what the job will cost, what resources it will require, professional staffs, keeping costs to a minimum so their limited resources can be used on projects. The sponsoring companies support them not only with money but in several cases with full-time help for themselves as well as their projects. "What we need most is people", David Swann says. "They're our raw material."

There seem to be five particular situations where part-time or full-time assignment has clear value for companies.

(1) For straightforward management development, which is particularly important for young managers. GEC-Bradford, for example, assigned Bob Hunter, a manufacturing superintendent, to deputize general manager for a year at Oxfam Waste-Saver in Huddersfield. This is an interesting case of the entire waste-sorting operation staffed by international students and local volunteers, but also designing and setting up a new glass-pressing facility (with equipment contributed by the Glass Manufacturers' Federation), coping with questions of cash flow, and handling human relations problems. "He gets experience there in multi-functional management. It's easier there than in the existing company structure", a GEC spokesman said.

(2) To reward achievement. Many people doing ARC and Trident projects were already involved in some kind of volunteer work or wanted to be. The "time off" on secondment, particularly on part-time assignments, is viewed as a reward in most cases. Esso's Nick Critchlow, assigned partly for management development and public relations reasons to the Bulldog project for transnational employment for people on probation, says: "I felt very fortunate. My whole horizon has been enlarged."

(3) To create new links. GEC, felt community involvement was very important, and asked ARC to find a project. When the Oxfam opportunity arose, it assigned Bob Hunter and Danny Coughlin, who had been the company of shop stewards until a recent election.

In addition to the visible union management link, the assignment eased Coughlin's

mouths at the Oxfam for where he has been looking for safety factors.

His skills are invaluable in this type of centre, a mill, with volunteers not limited to working in industry. John Vogler, Oxfam Saver's general manager says:

(4) For mid-career "holding". This can range from a two-week assignment when an executive is in between jobs, to a longer period. Trident's Birnside says: "With a chill wind of economic need, some companies are in a position where they can't expand for the next three years. What do they do with a manager who is under when they don't have enough work to keep him occupied right now?"

"Things can't get worse they'll probably get better, so they'll need him to know. If they can't find a better offer company, he'll like to come back. The candidate who could be the price for two or three years. Trident. And he's likely to return to the company with knowledge and enthusiasm," says.

(5) For transition to management. Many people who devoted their entire lives to company have an interest in developing outside the company. An employee may be discharged as debt to the community as well as the individual if they pay a salary for several years in service.

Trident has a 55-year-old man from CEBG about to be assigned full time to his education authority, where he can continue after retirement.

ARC found a training manager from Lucas, who is in contact with a help charity in London. Acting as a consultant than an employee, he is setting up systems as the organization expands nationwide, and he coordinates between the people and the volunteers who help them.

Both ARC and Trident are anxious to find money people. "As usual, our are bigger than our resources," David Swann says.

Nancy

## Industry in the Regions

Skegness, isolated on Lincolnshire's east coast, has for years lived up to its holiday poster promise of being so bracing for the seasonal holidaymakers from the Midlands and north of England towns. But that seasonal trade has never really been quite enough to brace the local economy, especially in hard times.

Now the 11,400 population resort, whose sands at low tide seem almost as extensive as the eye-beckoning distances of largely rural Lincolnshire itself, has just finished watching the death agonies of its largest year-round employer.

The Rank Organisation, which in 1962 took over and developed an old Murphy electronics factory at Skegness, originally established 10 years before that, has left after phasing out over six months' work for nearly 400 people.

Ranks had been more than content with the quality of the workforce, largely women, although the town's gearing to the seasonal holiday trade had—until the recession scrapped their plans—made them look elsewhere for an expansion to electronics

The busy, high-season air of Skegness over the weekend masked what is already a worrying situation for the town. This month the unemployment rate climbed to 5.5 per cent compared with the county average of 4.6 per cent.

That for Skegness was more than double its July figure of last year. The economic activity rate had dropped to 34.8 per cent compared with the

In the county town of Lincoln, still thankfully pretty busy with its many energy-orientated engineering concerns, the economic activity

Although Lincolnshire's unemployment figures almost parallel the national average, the localized percentage of jobless varies widely, from the 2.6 per cent of Spalding (where Geest, the banana people, have

But autumn will be the real testing time for resorts like Skegness when the last of the holiday visitors has come and gone. Last November the town's hotels were at 6.2

The most optimistic estimate locally for this November is 10 per cent are some are gloomily contemplating a figure nearer 15 per cent. This is because

other local industry, such as caravan manufacture and textiles, is in sectors almost as much threatened with recession as electronics.

operation leaves a factory leasing problem in the in-tray of Mr John Barker, director of housing and ex-ares for the East Lindsey District Council. Skewness is just inside an in-

intermediate development area which extends across the

It is a cliché of present-day ordering of the

political discussion that the  
broad consensus which pre-  
vailed throughout the 50s and  
1960s has been destroyed, and  
Britain now resembles nothing  
so much as a nation in search

This could equally well be said of industry. Many firms are reacting to familiar pressures with *ad hoc* measures. Hoping, no doubt, that in time

One company which has

ever, is working in the reverse direction, by starting with a philosophy. Is Trebor Sharps, a medium-sized, family-owned manufacturer of coffees, sweets and other confectionery and

The company is embarking on a training programme, based on a series of one-week residential courses which cover the

To achieve this, he advocates a change of management approach is needed. "The board's style of leadership is important in terms of its regard to its managers."

The theoretical framework for this action is provided by a book first published in Britain in 1973, and recently reprinted, *The Developing Organization* by C. C. L. Liersegaard\*, a Dutchman

which seems to have achieved almost the status of a management Bible in the mind of John Marks, chairman of Trebor.

The book traces the development of a company through

three phases. First there is the phase in which the infant organization is dominated and personally controlled by the entrepreneur. The second phase arises when the organization

This is dubbed the "phase of differentiation" and is the characteristic stage reached by most relatively large organizations. At Trebor Sharps the pur-

\*Published by Tavistock Publications, 57-59, Tottenham Court Road, London, W1P 0LP.

\*Published by Tavistock Publications, £7.50.

**Nancy Foy**











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